

**Recreation and Park Advisory Board
In-Person Meeting @ Glenview Mansion
December 11, 2025
Board Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Board Members: Jack Thirolf (chair), Tom Lynch, Chip Boylan, Natalie Vankos, Elizabeth Fischer, Dirk Whatley, Ken Scales
Staff: Steve Mader
Absent: Tiffany Holand
Council Liaison: Absent
Guest: Wayne Breslyn

Meeting commencement: 7:04 pm

Re: Approval of September Minutes

The October minutes were approved as presented.

Re: Guest Forum

Wayne Breslyn, a Twinbrook resident and member of The Friends of RedGate Park, expressed that The Friends of RedGate Park has over one hundred members who would like to provide their support and have a more collaborative relationship with the advisory board.

Re: Glenview Mansion Highlights

The Civic Center Complex manages multiple properties, including Glenview Mansion, Cottage, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre & Social Hall, Elwood Smith and Pump House Community Centers, park pavilions, and the Community Garden Program at Woottons Mill Park. Our cost center had an exceptional 2025 fiscal year:

- All FTE positions remain filled, and two employees recently celebrated 25 years and 30 years of service with the City of Rockville
- We made \$110,000 over our revenue goal and met our cost recovery target
- Our recreation programs filled 100% of capacity
- All the 179 garden plots at Woottons Mill Park were rented in the 2025 season
- Glenview Mansion filled 90% of its prime rental dates and hosted 294 rentals for internal user groups and external clients
- CIP construction began at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in December 2024 for ADA improvements and renovations
- The venue reopened on September 2nd with all prime rental dates between September and December 2025 completely booked

The main highlight for the Civic Center Complex so far in FY26 is the reopening of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on September 2, 2025, after the completion of a nine-month renovation under the capital improvements program. The work was driven by a single purpose – to make our performing arts venue more inclusive and accessible for every member of our community. These improvements and renovations were made possible through City CIP funding and State of Maryland legislative bond funding that the City received in 2022. A dedication ceremony for the venue was held on September 27, 2025, and included attendance by the Mayor and Council of Rockville, State of Maryland and Montgomery County elected officials, and over 100 members of the public. The main scope of this project included:

- Expanded wheelchair seating
- Speaker upgrades to support our ADA assistive listening device system
- Updated stage rigging to support our hanging lights and scenery
- Renovated green room, dressing rooms, and bathrooms
- City's first adult changing station
- ADA water fountains with bottle refill capability
- Expanded and renovated box office, which includes a ticket window speaker system to allow patrons to connect their personal hearing devices
- Lowered countertops and lights switches throughout the venue
- New exterior emergency exit ramp to provide safe evacuation
- New flooring, carpet, and blinds
- New staff offices and stage curtain

While ADA accessibility was at the heart of this project, we also invested in environmental sustainability. A total of 395 lights, including 18 lights in the main parking lot for Civic Center Park, were retrofitted with energy-efficient LEDs. These upgrades are expected to save the City about \$8,000 each year in electricity costs. This lighting project was championed by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Public Works through a Pepco rebate and a Maryland Smart Energy Communities Grant from the Maryland Energy Administration.

Re: Council Report ~ Councilmember Van Grack

Councilmember VanGrack was not in attendance.

Re: Staff Report Steve Mader

- **Parks staff in the Holiday Spirit**
Our Parks division spread some holiday cheer this month; holiday lights were installed and turned on at Veterans' Park, and poinsettias were delivered to the front desks at our city facilities
- **Croydon Creek Nature Center's winter birdseed sale** started last week. Support wildlife in your backyard while also supporting the nature center! The sale includes a wide variety of food for backyard visitors, from black oil sunflower seed to suet cakes. Orders are due by Friday, January 23, and you can pick up your seed from the nature center on Saturday, January 31. For more information, please visit our city website.
- **Parks and Facilities staff responded promptly to two Winter weather events last week.** Crews worked across multiple sites to ensure public safety and maintain accessibility. Their efforts included park pathways, sidewalks, and entrances, applying salt and sand to reduce hazards, and inspecting facilities for weather-related damage. Staff also assisted with securing equipment and coordinating resources to support uninterrupted operations. Thanks to their coordinated response, city parks and recreational facilities remained safe and usable for residents despite the challenging conditions.
- **The Rockville Seniors Inc. Annual Holiday Bazaar** held at the Rockville Senior Center on Saturday, December 6th, was a success with 60 vendors participating.
- Under the direction of Dr. Christine Higley, **the Rockville Concert Band** will perform *A Winter Celebration* at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21st at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. This

musical celebration of light, laughter, and holiday spirit will feature “A Christmas Intrada” by Alfred Reed, “Rhapsody for Hanukkah” by Stephen Bulla, and “Sleigh Ride” by Leroy Anderson. No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation.

- As you know, Mayor and Council voted unanimously, 7-0, for **Rockville’s King Farm Farmstead Master Plan** during Monday’s Mayor & Council meeting. Thank you to our Rec & Parks staff for their collaboration and support, Chris Henry for bringing it to the finish line, and to the board for their input and advocacy throughout this long process.
- This afternoon, City of Rockville staff gathered at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre for our **Annual Employee Awards Ceremony**. The City Manager, along with the Mayor and Council, recognized members of our team for their achievements and milestones. Nineteen members of the Recreation and Parks Department were honored and enthusiastically cheered on by their colleagues for their dedication and service, ranging from 5 to 35 years with the City of Rockville

Re: Subcommittee Reports

- a) **Swim & Fitness Center (Jack for Ken)**
The Swim Center committee met on Monday, discussing lane rule updates that stemmed from an incident that occurred. When complaints or issues arise, Adam Goldstein addresses them quickly.
- b) **Recreation and Parks Foundation (Chip)**
The Foundation will be presenting a check for \$14,000 from the Duck Derby proceeds to the Mayor and Council in February. The Foundation will also participate in the Rec & Parks staff breakfast by donating gift cards for the raffle.
- c) **Arts**
 - **Twinbrook Annex Mural (Elizabeth)**
The installation has completed and is beautiful.
 - **Swim & Fitness Center (Ken)**
No new updates
- d) **RedGate Park –**
 - Discussed the Master Plan design being the next pending phase.
- e) **King Farm Farmstead (Tiffany)**
 - Steve discussed the KFF Master Plan adoption by Mayor and Council in his staff report.

Old Business/ New Business

Old Business

- FY27 Budget
 - Jack drafted a strawman budget input document along with the RSFC Committee’s FY27 Budget and Aquatic Program Development proposal with the intent for the board to review, obtain input, and augment the ideas and priorities. Jack suggested the board discuss during January’s meeting to refine priorities and initiatives, and address budget challenges amid an increasing population and declining financial resources.
 - Steve pointed out there is still time to provide their input on the city’s budget survey.

The department meets with the City Manager in January to review the staff's FY27 submission. Once we obtain feedback and direction from the City Manager, it will be shared with the board.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM

The next meeting: January 22, 2026, at 7:00 PM Virtual via WebEx