

**Recreation and Park Advisory Board
In-Person Meeting @ 6 Taft Court
June 26, 2025
Board Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Board Members: Jack Thirolf (chair), Kirsten Kaplan, Tom Lynch
Chip Boylan, Natalie Vankos, Ken Scales, Dirk Whatley, Tiffany Holland
Absent: Elizabeth Fischer
Staff: Tara Stewart, Karla Sheehi
Council Liaison: Absent

Meeting & dinner commencement: 6:04 pm

Re: Approval of May Minutes

The May minutes were approved as amended.

Re: Guest Forum

No guests are in attendance.

Re: Council Report

Councilmember Van Grack is not in attendance.

Re: Staff Reports

- **King Farm Farmstead**
Staff are presenting to Mayor and Council on Monday, July 14, 2025, the community feedback from the filtering sessions that took place from May to June.
The consultants will review the 4 concepts and highlight the top 2, which were options 2 and 4. Staff are looking forward to the feedback from Mayor and Council on the next steps.
- **RedGate Park Design**
The RFP has gone out for bidding and is open through August 20, 2025.
After reviewing the proposals and conducting interviews, staff are expecting to award a contract by mid-Fall. Then there will be a 12-month cycle for the design.
The city applied for a large grant through the Land Water Conservation Fund, through Maryland DNR, for \$1.5 million to assist with the first phase of the RedGate Master Plan.

Re: Subcommittee Reports

- a) **Swim & Fitness Center (Ken)**
The big opening day for the new outdoor pool is coming up, Monday, June 30th.
The Maryland State Long Course Swimming Championships were held at the Swim Center the last weekend in May, and involved 500 athletes par

b) Recreation and Parks Foundation (Chip)

The Duck Derby event is July 18th, and ducks are being adopted at city events like the Farmers Market as well as online. This is all in support of the Rockville Youth Recreation.

The Foundation will be presenting community awards to volunteers and partners in the community who help provide great services and programs, before the commencement of the July 14th Mayor and Council meeting.

c) Arts

- **College Gardens (Natalie):**

The installation of the mural is underway.

- **Twinbrook Annex Mural (Elizabeth)**

No new update

- **Swim & Fitness Center (Ken)**

No new update

d) RedGate Park – (Kirsten/Tara)

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, The RedGate Park Design RFP is out to bid and open through August 20, 2025.

Old Business/ New Business

New Business

Jack proposed that the board gather and present comments on the King Farm Farmstead initiative to the Mayor and Council. Tiffany, who is a King Farm resident, volunteered to speak on the board's behalf. Jack recommended using the message the board presented to the Mayor and Council in December 2025 as a starting point and will forward it to Tiffany. He then made a motion to proceed with presenting the board's message at the July 14 Mayor and Council meeting, during the community forum. Ken moved to approve the motion; Tom seconded it. All members in attendance voted in favor.

Old Business

The board's annual report is due to the City Clerk's office by September 2025. Jack started a draft of the board's accomplishments, which should cover a 2-year span, since the board has not presented an annual report in previous years.

Tara offered to place Jack's draft report in a shared location accessible to the board, allowing them to collaborate on the document. The board should have a final draft for review at the July meeting.

Annual Park Tour

Facilitated by Charles Reed, *Parks Services Manager* & Jessica Corazza, *Horticulturist*

Parks on the tour:

Maryvale Park - Touring the newly installed playground

Dawson Farm Park – View the granary being repaired

Civic Center Park – View the rose planting and restoration, boxwood restoration, and upcoming CIP for retaining walls and pathways.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting & tour was adjourned at 8:30 pm

The next meeting: July 24, 2025, at 7:00 PM @ Rockville Swim & Fitness Center