

Association Of Recreation Councils Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 27, 2024, 6:00 pm at Scott Key Community Center
1050 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick, MD 21702
<https://www.reccouncilsoffrederick.org/>

Eric Appel called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

In Attendance:

Melissa Thomas (CRC/President) (virtual attendance via Teams);
John Campbell (BCRC/Treasurer); Dana Collingwood (FCNC);
Sandra Warfield & Mary Howser (SRC); Bob & Shirley Ward (BARC);
Eric Appel (FCP&R/Secretary, non-voting); Tommi-Leigh Starick (FCPR/non-voting);
Matt Sweadner (LASA/non-voting); JoAnn Howell (WNMRC)

Absent:

Middletown Rec, Rose Hill Museum, Carroll Manor Rec, Urbana Rec,

- I. **Introduction of Association Officers & Attendees/Council Representatives** - around the room intros
- II. **President/V.P. Report:**
 - Minutes from November 2023
 - Edits: Nature Rec Council correction – ..."Maryland Master Naturalist Program will graduate 11 Adults..."
Motion to approve minutes with edits – John Campbell
 - **Seconded** by Sandra SRC
 - **Approved** by All
- III. **Treasurer Report:**
 - Still \$536.69
 - Maryland Tax Connect – Eric Appel started an account for Rec Councils. State of Maryland's e-file system for any forms (Self Service Online Portal). They may require each council to log in as Association of Recreation Council. Eric Appel is looking into how each council would be listed. If you need to do anything with MD taxes, have your treasurer contact Eric Appel.
- IV. **Secretary Report:**
 - Council Contact List – Review and update the list that is passing around.
 - Council Information Table - Check to see if there are any edits.
 - Recreation Councils were asked to ensure that they are getting their meeting minutes to their FCPR Liaison.

V. County Report

- Field Reservations - Fall opens 4/15, Closes 5/31 – takes about 2-3 weeks to get all permits out
- Rec Center Reservations – First come, first serve availability for Spring. Summer applications accepted 4/1 for June and July. Rec Centers closed in August through Labor Day.
- Reminder of Background checks for all volunteers that are around kids.
Only thing FCPR is doing is verifying that you are doing background checks
The form that was sent out covers 2 years
- Liaisons are changing around as we have had new hires. Eric will notify you of any liaison changes within the next month. If they are not attending or not helpful, please let Eric Appel know so he can address.
- Parks and Recreation Commission – There are two vacancies, and we are accepting nominees for that. Commission would represent an area of Frederick County system. If anyone in your council is interested, please let Eric Appel know. They do meet in the evening on 2nd Thurs each month at 7pm. They are about an hour long. There is usually a presentation each meeting on some aspect of parks and recreation, and a park tour in August.
- Any Support Needed? -
 - **BARC: Are groups having trouble getting volunteers (YES).**
 - It's societal – no one is volunteering anymore.
 - Sometimes until there is a vacancy, no one will step up.
 - Will town administrators assist?
 - High School Student Volunteer hours?
Scout projects?
Trustees?
Community Service Hours from courts?
 - Possible FCPR assistance in advertising for volunteers? Website, Marketing, or Recreater?
Position or Event Need listing?
Social Media post with meeting information or volunteer needs.

Background checks –

- Melissa not receiving invoices. (NCSI). She has to go online to find them.
- Eric Appel to check on how that might be set up.
- Volunteers should be able to select rec council.
- You can use any system you want. Just make sure that it meets whatever background check policy you have.
- Maryland Case search is not accurate and should not be used to do background checks.
- NCSI was chosen because it is Third party, Nationally credited, and recommended by NRPA.
- \$17/check is the current rate.
- Eric Appel will resend account link out to anyone who needs it.
- Annual checks should be the minimum. Per season is better.

VI. New Business:

- **Constitution and Bylaws update:**
 - **Motion:** by JoAnn Howell to Motion to approve changes as presented with the following edits:
 1. Article V, Section 1 – remove section “*via newsletter, press release, public announcements, fliers, or any combination thereof*”
 2. Article VII, Section 1 – remove section “*Registration fees (financial hardships will be discretely considered by the officers on a case by case basis)*”
 - **Seconded** by John Campbell
 - **Approved** by All

- **Libertytown Area Sports Association – Requesting to join the Association of Recreation Councils.**

County recommends Libertytown Area Sports Association to be on probation for a one year time period prior to being accepted as a recreation council.

Eric Appel states that the year time frame should be considered retroactively beginning July 2023. The time frame would allow for LASA to be a recreation council at the end of the one year, July 1, 2024. County would prefer the name to be changed to Recreation Council. LASA is agreeable to name change.

 - **Motion:** by Dana Collingwood to accept July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024 as Libertytown Area Sports Association’s probationary time period.
 - **Seconded** by John Campbell
 - **Approved** by all

 - **Motion** by Joann Howell - Pending all documentation is submitted to the County by Libertytown Area sports Association (LASA) by July 1, 2024, FRARC accepts LASA into the Association of Recreation Councils with the agreement that LASA add “Recreation Council” to their name by July 1, 2025.
 - **Second** Dana Collingwood
 - **All approved**

- **URC - Best Method for cash tracking for referees**
 - Topic tabled until next meeting due to URC absence.
 - A couple of groups noted that referee fees were tracked by checks being issued to coaches for the season’s worth of referee fees for them to cash and then pay referees during the season.

VII. Round-Table:

- **Ballenger Creek –**
 - Basketball is over.
 - Soccer has started, new soccer coordinator, Dan Iannone, has connections with Tuscarora High School that will hopefully grow the program

- **Brunswick Area –**
 - Finished Scottish First Footing event, one of three in the nation.
 - Completed Freezing for Reason and raised money for different org. Scholarship was given in name of girl killed in military.
 - Othello walking group forming beginning April 9,
 - Run in September at Othello
 - senior pickleball growing group like crazy playing outside right now – BRC drop in pickleball also used but not senior.

- Asked about county senior center being put in? Current one in Brunswick is old and run down. Eric Appel has not heard about it but will check with the director and get back with them.
- Upcoming events are: Down Hill Run, Veteran Day and hay ride, Christmas event which is a big event.

- **CMRC – Absent**

- **Catoctin Area –**

- 7 team this Spring, 80 kids, most ever.
- We bought a new storage shed that will be delivered next month to store equipment.

(Melissa Thomas left mtg 8:02)

- **Middletown – Absent**

- **Museum – Absent**

- **Nature –**

- Volunteer Appreciation Event held in January. Special Stewardship Award issued to Walkersville High School for their work in removing and extensive amount of invasive plant species from Fountain Rock Park in 2023. Donation was made to school biology program and library.
- Nature Council will be publishing an Anthology this year, coordinated by a Master Naturalist (Dave Stant) for his project. Nature writing submissions pertaining to Maryland may be submitted for consideration. Information is on Nature Council website: naturecouncilfc.org.
- Next online (Zoom) learning session will be June 5th by Taylor Roman (formerly an Assistant Naturalist at Fountain Rock Park) and will focus on pollinators/bees. Quarterly online programs are gaining in popularity. Free, but register on the nature council website to get the Zoom link.
- Annual Butterfly Count (a citizen science project) will be held Sunday, July 28th from 10am-noon at Catoctin Creek Nature Center. This event (led by Kathy Barylski) has been collecting/tracking data for over 20 years.
- There will be a Maryland Master Naturalist Class offered in Fall 2024 (Sept to Dec). Class will be held 8am-2:30pm on Fridays, primarily at Fountain Rock Nature Center. Applications will be accepted until mid August.
- Annual Fountain Rock Native Plant Sale will be held Sept 21st. Place orders in advance starting September 1st on Nature Council website and pick up at Fountain Rock Park on the 21st.

- **Senior –**

- Exercise classes are doing well.
- Hikes start in April of varying levels. History/nature bike/hike trips
- Getting ready to celebrate 30th anniversary.
- Bocce starting again.

- **Urbana – Absent**

- **Woodsboro/New Midway –**

- Have one t-ball team for this spring,

- Finished basketball – largest program since 80 participants.
- Woodsboro Park’s new skate park is popular. It is adjacent to the shed and making it difficult to access. Kids playing at the skate park have already tried to break into shed.

VIII. Adjournment:

- **Motion** to adjourn JoAnn Howell
- **Seconded** – John Campbell
- **Meeting Adjourned** at 8:10pm

NOTE - Next Meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday July 31, 2024, at 6:00pm.**