

OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS WORKGROUP MINUTES



Date: 05/20/2020
Time: 9:00am
Facilitator: Terri Hansen

In Attendance

Terri Hansen	Don Mock
Mary Pat Donelan	Marian Vessels
Kathleen Krintz	Ted Meyerson

Minutes Approved

Terri did not send the minutes and will send after she edits.

Announcements:

Terri sent out the report that Dr. Smith has put together about a month ago. Look at it and how we use the information from what we already have from these reports to further educate the public about what the county has to offer.

Old Business:

Still need leadership for this group
Reviewed the 2 vision statements that were provided

New Business:

- Marian stated that she spent several hours on the Howard County Parks and Recreation website, seeing what was available, focusing on access for people with disabilities. All parks were accessible. She was interested in getting people from the trails to wooded areas and nature. Talked to folks at Rec and Parks and the coordinator for accessibility Susan Potts. Also, looked at Columbia Association website– not a lot of documentation of what maybe accessible.
- Terri stated that Columbia Association trails are identified but not sure they are accessible. Hopefully, Columbia Association will buy in and use the information from Age-Friendly to address this].
- Marian stated she would like to know where one could go (using a wheelchair). She would like people to be surer of the accessibility.
- Terri asked how we are going to get this information out to the community. Let's agree that everything is on the website and is accessible, Age-Friendly must also reach those who do not have access to the Internet.

- Marian suggested possibly using the Howard County Times and Columbia Flyer. Maybe suggest using the sport section for outdoor spaces accessibility. Or possibly using a Community newsletter. Maybe the County can look at other resources that could tie into Parks and Rec.
- Terri stated that Parks and Recs puts out a quarterly guide, possibly putting something in that regarding the outdoor spaces. Also, talk to Columbia Association about having a section advertising and highlighting outdoor spaces.
- Mary Pat suggested using the Villages newsletters that are put out.
- Terri asked for other thoughts and ideas regarding Rec and Parks and CA websites. We have good things out there that lets people know what is out there. Perhaps we could suggest visual surveying of the County to see where the gaps are. Having maps of the different spaces would be helpful as to the closeness to one's house especially if new to the area.
- Don suggested doing an overall map as to where the outdoor spaces are. Also, include which parks are and the accessibility of trails.
- Terri stated improving the knowledge base and what exists and use the Age-Friendly platforms to improve getting the information out is consistent with what we discussed several meetings ago.
- Marian stated since there will be no money for improvements or new things how can we leverage what currently exists and make it more user-friendly, Age-Friendly. Let's look at the current websites and see where there can be some improvements.
- Goal is to leverage what exists, make friendly, change the infrastructures.
- Terri asked if we are missing anything other than Columbia Association and Rec and Parks? We do have some small museums in Columbia through Park and Recs.
 - B&O Railroad
 - Historic Museums in Ellicott City
 - African Museum
 - Anything not covered will be outside of Columbia Rec and Parks
- Marian asked about other recreation facilities such as Howard County Community College or possibly using the tracks at the high schools. We need to explore this.

Reviewed compilation report

- There was some good information in regard to outdoor spaces.
- Looked at Social Engagement area of report. This can be done in any location
- Intergenerational opportunities—possibility of increasing if done in outdoor spaces.
- Could do intergenerational activities outdoors. Have programs in different locations, such as faith-based locations, or parks. Expanding existing programs to different locations.
- County Government is not equipped to do everything.
- Is the housing for seniors close and accessible to outdoor spaces and if not is there transportation to the outdoor spaces?
- Terri also noted that in the report Health and Wellness decreased from 2012 to 2018 and shifted from outside to inside.
- Look through the report again through an Age-Friendly lens, at the outdoor space section and look at low-income housing and the transportation issues with low-income as it relates to individual's ability to take advantage of outdoor spaces and parks.

Homework Assignments:

Don will look through the CA website and report out at the next meeting.

Terri will get in touch with Jeff and see if we can get GIS maps.

Next Meeting:

June 17, 2020 at 9:00 AM