



MONTGOMERY PARKS

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902
MontgomeryParks.org

Open session #3 for the Black Baseball & Softball Community Heritage Project: Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 12, 2026, 7-8 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Purpose: Community input session on the developing Black Baseball & Softball Community Heritage initiative

Next meeting date: July 14, 7 PM on [Teams](#)

****NOTE – No June meeting**

Meeting Notes

Project updates

- [Audience survey](#) launched; currently 34 responses [as of 5/19 there are 57 responses]
 - Distribution includes:
 - Signs at select ballfields in Montgomery Parks
 - High school athletic directors and coaches
 - Individual outreach
 - Parks press release issued
- Oral history interviews:
 - One completed interview
 - Outreach for additional interviews continues
- Recording line and online form launched for story collection:
 - Two participation options:
 - Phone voicemail – 301-495-2590
 - [Online/mobile recording tool](#)
 - Feedback: add option for written submissions via email
- Big Train's Juneteenth Game
 - Timeline
 - Supper: 5:00 PM
 - First pitch: 5:45 PM
 - Game: 6:00 PM

- Supper audience: Legacy African American communities

Discussion - Map

- Draft map of sites
 - GIS mapping of historic baseball/softball (sandlot) fields in progress
 - Technical issues prevented live demo

Discussion – Youth Baseball

A participant raised the question of youth baseball and an interest in building a program around the eventual renovation of Johnson’s Park. This relates to the surrounding community development work in Emory Grove.

Opportunities

- Interest in rebuilding youth baseball programs
- Youth sports seen as a tool for:
 - Community connection
 - Youth engagement

Challenges Identified

- Field access controlled
- Decline of recreation-based leagues
- Growth of expensive travel/club sports
- Year-round specialization in other sports (basketball, football)
- High equipment and participation costs
- Need for:
 - Transportation systems
 - Staff/volunteers
- Coordination and funding

Historical Model Discussed

- Prior successful programs included:
 - Multi-community leagues (T-ball → junior high)
 - Provided equipment
 - Van transportation system
 - Community-based referees/umpires

Coming up

- Parks will have an info table at:
 - Josiah Henson Museum event (June 11)
 - Scotland Juneteenth Festival & Game (June 19)
- June 30 – audience survey closes

Ongoing

- Oral history outreach and coordination
- Continue work on sandlot field map
- Collect photographs, names, rosters, and documents from community members

**NB* – These meeting notes were originally created by Co-Pilot AI based on the meeting transcript. Staff then made edits, corrections, and additions. Additions from the Teams chat were also included in this report.