

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

MICHAEL WEBER, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 6:22 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Mike Weber, chairman; board members Leslie Monfred, Mike Milani, Chuck Munzert, Brian Weir and Charles Gilman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, and Don Kuklinski, regional coordinator, Region 4.

Approval of Minutes:

Leslie Monfred motioned to approve the December board meeting minutes, Charles Gilman seconded, and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Mike Weber announced that he would like to remove "Board Member's Activities" from the agenda. If board members have anything to report, they can incorporate this into old/new business.

Mr. Weber stated that he is looking forward to a very active 2014.

Director's Comments

Director Barry F. Williams informed board members that he would be attending the county-wide principal's meeting with Dr. S. Dallas Dance to discuss the Joint Use Agreement.

A copy of an article in the Baltimore Sun regarding the smoking ban was distributed to board members. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that he has had conversations with a couple of the Baltimore County Council members – the same members that have asked about background checks. He suggested that the board makes sure to talk with their respective council folks as they take this forward.

In regards to BCPS moves that would affect the department, Mr. Williams reported that we would lose the building and field house at Bloomsbury. However, nothing will happen until January or February of 2015. At this point in time, there is nothing concrete about Loch Raven but he reported a discussion on the possibility of building a community center on the grounds of Loch Raven Elementary School. Don Kuklinski stated that the community participates in small amounts of baseball and softball, but is more active with football. Brief discussion ensued.

Old Business:

Regarding the questions submitted by the Perry Hall Recreation Council, Mr. Weber reported that he forwarded the responses from Mike Field to the council for review. In addition, he had asked Mr. Gilman to review the responses and provide his legal opinion/comments. Mr. Gilman replied, stating that the answer to question #1 was inadequate; it does not answer the question. Mr. Gilman stated that the county's law office should respond properly. As for question #2, Mr. Gilman stated that he thinks there is an issue with the way the question is worded. Brief discussion ensued. Lastly, question #5 could be answered a lot differently and more adequately. Overall, Mr. Gilman stated that he thinks the document could have been done a lot differently. Discussion ensued regarding the board's next step. During this discussion, all board members agreed that the board is there to protect the recreation councils. Mr. Weber stated that he would have the recreation council forward their concerns to him; he will forward these concerns to the board and to the law office for response.

Mr. Weber spoke to Councilman David Marks regarding the smoking ban. Councilman Marks was going to introduce this legislation on January 6 but decided to hold off until February 18 for a vote. Mr. Weber urged board members to attend the work session on February 11 at 2 PM. He also encouraged board members to contact their council representative and inform them of their opinion on this matter. Mr. Weber stated that Councilman Marks is aware that they will hear a lot of flack regarding enforcement. Board members discussed enforcement and stated that staff should first remind those who are in violation of the ban and then if an individual is non compliant, they may be asked to leave the property. Further discussion ensued.

In regards to background checks, Mr. Weber posed the question of what the tone of this letter should be. Discussion ensued. Mr. Weber stated that the board has made their decision on this matter and the department needs to show support. Brian Weir and Chuck Munzert polled the councils in their area while attending a president's meeting and stated that most of them were already doing some form of background checks on their own. Out of courtesy, Mr. Weber (Executive Appointment) suggested that he, Mr. Gilman (Executive Appointment) and Mr. Williams meet with Bryan Sheppard (on behalf of the county executive) to discuss the board's plan. In addition, Mr. Weber discussed the possibility of engaging the school board on this as we have people in their facilities. Mr. Weber stated that he would try to come up with a strategy for the board before March. Mike Milani stated that the first step the board needs to take is to talk to their council representative and see where they stand and what questions they have. Mr. Weber stated that he would like Mr. Williams to put together what he thinks he needs to implement the ban so the board can compare this to Howard County. Mr. Weber asked board members to call him with any advice they have to move this forward.

New Business:

Mr. Weber stated that he thinks utilizing social media could be a very effective tool, especially on a subject like background checks. The board will discuss this further.

Mr. Munzert inquired about whether or not the letter outlining the services Property Management will no longer provide was ever distributed to recreation council presidents. It was not. He and Mr. Weir will hand out a copy to Region 4 recreation council presidents at the next president's meeting.

Regarding NeighborSpace, Mr. Munzert questioned whether or not there was any more thought to meeting with them. Mr. Munzert informed board members that the county executive would be

attending a meeting next week and would be confronted about the Huber property. Mr. Williams replied that the state backed out of this deal. He stated that the owners had come to a financial agreement with the state and county, however their bank was not satisfied. Mr. Munzert stated that he wants to lock this property in so another 1,000 homes are not developed. He stated that the deal was going through open space and discussed NeighborSpace as an option. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Weber stated that he would contact Barbara Hopkins. Mr. Williams stated that the money from the county is still committed and further stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to invite Ms. Hopkins to one of the board meetings. Mr. Williams mentioned the breakfast that NeighborSpace holds and stated that board members should attend. He will look into this.

Mr. Williams announced that the county is very close to acquiring 32 acres in Sparks for recreation & parks. Mr. Williams reported that Councilman Todd Huff was very instrumental in this acquisition.

Board members briefly discussed West Inverness Recreation Council and the issues surrounding the council. Mr. Weir and Mr. Munzert will contact the council and notify them that the board is ready to make a decision and to reiterate that they have not been operating according to their by-laws. If West Inverness Recreation Council is dissolved, then Bear Creek would be the logical council to absorb their programs.

Action:

Mr. Milani motioned to wait for a response from the Perry Hall Recreation Council before pursuing this any further, Mr. Weir seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Weir moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Gilman seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter