

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

MICHAEL WEBER, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held immediately following the annual dinner meeting with the Baltimore County Board of Education, at 6:45 PM. The meeting was held at Greenwood located at 6901 Charles Street, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Mike Weber, chairman; Eric van den Beemt, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, David Smylie, Greg Heitner, Chuck Munzert, Brian Weir and Robbie Palmisano. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services, and Mike Schneider, community outreach liaison.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Greg Heitner motioned to approve the May board meeting minutes, Chuck Munzert seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Director's Comments**

Director Barry F. Williams congratulated Robbie Palmisano on his re-appointment to the board.

The Acorn Hill Playground ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for tomorrow, June 18 at 11 AM. Mr. Williams encouraged all board members to attend.

Mr. Williams stated that summer is moving along fairly well. He has had four meetings with council presidents (by region) and all have been interesting and positive. The council presidents were asked to submit issues prior to the meetings that they wished to discuss. Receiving these issues in advance allowed us to address their concerns at each meeting rather than having to get back to them. However, many of the issues were Property Management concerns. Property Management is having two meetings with council presidents: June 25 at Reisterstown Regional Park and July 9 at Stemmers Run Community Center – both at 6 PM. Mr. Williams suggested that all council presidents come to these meetings with specific concerns written down. He told the council presidents that their goal should be resolution. Chairman Mike Weber thanked Mr. Williams for holding these meetings and thanked board members for attending. Mr. Williams announced that there is one more president's meeting scheduled, the meeting with Agriculture, Nature & Special Facilities.

Mr. Williams commented that he thought the meeting with Board of Education went well. He emphasized the need to follow through and stated that there was good communication, but this could always be better. Brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Williams stated that he saw the paperwork on Sparks Elementary and reported that this is in the hands of the county attorney. He stated that he feels pretty good about that.

There was brief discussion regarding the new turf field planned for the Towson area. Lights are not part of this project at this point in time.

### **Old Business:**

In regards to coverage for volunteers – the Perry Hall Recreation Council Q & A's, Mr. Weber reported that Charles Gilman has not yet reviewed this. He stated that he would ask Mr. Gilman to review and get recommendations to the board.

Mr. Weber announced that there are four people assigned to the task force regarding background checks. They are charged with looking into the details and implementation of this process. Mr. Weber stated that there are currently recreation councils looking to implement background checks; he did not encourage them to stop. He commented that he has been upfront with regard to where the funding lies.

Mr. Weber reported that Vice Chairman Eric van den Beemt drafted a letter to the Perry Hall Recreation Council Officers (re: football program) for his signature. This will be sent out tomorrow.

Brian Weir referenced the pending resolution regarding the PUD for the North Point Government Center and brief discussion ensued. Mr. Weir announced that the Work Session [where this pending resolution will be discussed] is scheduled for July 1 at 2 PM and will be held at the courthouse. He stated that the community has hired lawyers and are planning to continue this fight. In addition, he stated that recreation and parks should have input on this.

### **New Business:**

Regarding social media, Mr. Weber reported that he spoke to Mychael Dickerson, director of Communications for BCPS, and he offered to help with coordination of efforts between Recreation and Parks and BCPS. Mr. Heitner stated that they would like to set up a private Facebook group, allowing two members per council to be part of this. This would only be accessible by those officers and not the general membership of a recreation council. Mr. Weber and Mr. Heitner discussed that communications regarding school facilities, etc. could be pushed out to our presidents directly by BCPS. Mr. Heitner stated that someone from BCPS-Communications would be included in the group.

Board members discussed financial review and re-certification, including when this would be due and how often they would require this. See motion under "Action." Mr. Weber stated that he would draft a letter providing this information to council presidents. When required documentation is submitted, Lisa Liupaeter will provide a copy to Behta Davis and the Financial Review Committee.

Mr. Munzert announced that the county council districts have changed. He was unaware of this and has learned that there are now councils within his representative district that were not part of this district before, and some councils that are no longer part of this district. He stated that he thinks all board members should know which councils are within their respective districts so they can coordinate their attendance at the council meetings. Ms. Liupaeter will distribute this information to board members.

Ms. Davis reported that an inquiry arose at a recent president's meeting regarding the status of West Inverness Recreation Council. Mr. Weir replied stating that he believes this inquiry is really about

use of facilities. Discussion ensued regarding sharing facilities and priority use. Ms. Davis plans to look into this matter with staff.

Board members discussed rescheduling the next board meeting. There is a meeting with folks from Property Management and recreation council presidents this same evening, in addition to a meeting regarding concussions. Board members would like to attend both of these meetings and would not be able to if they do not reschedule their monthly meeting. After brief discussion, the board decided to hold their next meeting on July 10 at Mount Vista. In addition, discussion ensued regarding holding board meetings around the county. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the winter meetings should be held at department headquarters in Cockeyville. See motion regarding monthly meetings under "Action." Ms. Davis has been asked to come up with suggestions for the site of the September meeting.

**Action:**

Mr. Munzert motioned to require all recreation and nature councils to submit their financial review by October 1, 2014, Mr. van den Beemt seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Munzert motioned to conduct the re-certification process every two years, Mr. van den Beemt seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. van den Beemt motioned to hold four board meetings a year at non-Cockeyville facilities, Mr. Weir seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. van den Beemt moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter