

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

MICHAEL WEBER, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Thursday, July 10, 2014, at 6:17 PM at Mount Vista Park located at 11101 Raphel Road, Kingsville, Maryland. In attendance were Mike Weber, chairman; Eric van den Beemt, vice chairman; board members Greg Heitner, Chuck Munzert, Brian Weir and Robbie Palmisano. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Beahtha Davis, chief, Recreation Services, Neil Magness, regional coordinator, Region 3, and Mike Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Neil Magness welcomed everyone and provided background information on Mount Vista Park. He stated that the department is in the process of losing the building, but not the site. Programming currently using the building will be relocated.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice Chairman Eric van den Beemt motioned to approve the June board meeting minutes, Greg Heitner seconded, and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Mike Weber discussed the meeting last night with Property Management and the recreation council presidents from Regions 3 and 4. He stated that if Property Management was in the room then council presidents should have been able to get answers to their questions, but this was not the case. Mr. Weber commented that Property Management did a disservice to our folks. Property Management extended an invitation to the council presidents to meet anytime and he stated that we should hold their feet to the fire and make sure this happens. Mr. Weber inquired about whether or not the meeting with Property Management and president's from Regions 1 and 2 would still take place. Beahtha Davis stated that she sent an email to Regions 1 and 2 notifying them that the only subject to be discussed was turf field renovations and if they had any additional concerns they should email them to her. Chuck Munzert commented that he thinks people now see the process recreation and parks has to go through to get things done. Mr. Weber provided a brief summary of the meeting and firmly stated that board members had an issue with the fact that the questions from the council presidents were not answered.

Director's Comments

Director Barry F. Williams announced the launch of the trails/walking paths website. The official launch is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16 at 11 AM and will take place at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum. Approximately 80 trails have been downloaded and there will be an app available for your phone. Mr. Williams stated that this is very exciting and invited all board members to attend.

Regarding background checks, Mr. Williams reported that the committee has gathered a lot of information and are now compiling all the data. The board will be asked to look at the different options and weigh in on these. In addition, there will be a select group of presidents assembled to look at this as well so we can get their reaction. This will then be sent to the County Executive; this is scheduled to happen in August.

Mike Schneider arranged a Concussion Awareness Presentation, which took place yesterday evening. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Mr. Heitner and Robbie Palmisano both attended. Mr. Heitner stated that he was disappointed. The information he thought people were there to hear was not relayed. Speakers addressed the audience and proceeded to tell stories. He thought this was an opportunity for a lot more. He stated that many questions were asked but not enough facts given. It did not appear that the county has a policy in place. He stated that there is plenty of information out there; however, the organization needs to set guidelines. Mr. Schneider replied stating that last year was much more informative, including factoids that were missed this year.

Old Business:

In regards to coverage for volunteers – the Perry Hall Recreation Council Q & A's, Mr. Weber reported that after the last board meeting, he emailed this information to Charles Gilman and asked him to review and get recommendations to the board. Unfortunately, Mr. Gilman was unable to attend this evening.

Brian Weir attended the Work Session on Tuesday, July 1 at 2 PM regarding the pending resolution for the PUD for the North Point Government Center. He stated that he finds it hard to believe that paid staff has no idea what is going on. He reported that police were sent to the homes of those opposing this (members of Dundalk United) and used threatening tactics against them. He referenced a double standard stating that they were treated differently than others in attendance at the Work Session. He asked the Baltimore County Council what was going to be done with the parkland at Eastwood. He stated he thinks things are going to get a lot worse before it gets better.

New Business:

Mr. Weir referenced an article in the Dundalk Eagle regarding Property Management's lack of support for the fair. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Weber stated that as a board they can be vocal about what their constituents want. Mr. Williams recognized the board's relationship with council folks and encouraged communication.

Mr. van den Beemt inquired about whether a response was received from the council regarding the letter sent in reference to the Perry Hall Recreation Council football program. Mr. Weber replied stating there was no response received. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he thinks the board should check on this; obtain the football schedule and drop in, keeping an eye on things.

Board members discussed the maps Lisa Liupaeter sent via email. Mr. Weber asked Mr. Munzert to divide the council meetings up amongst board members. Board members requested a list of all council presidents, their email addresses and council meeting dates and times.

Regarding social media, Mr. Heitner announced that he has a conference call with Mychael Dickerson and his staff on Friday, July 18, to discuss reaching all constituents. They have good

means of doing so and are willing to share this with us. Mr. Heitner has conducted research for the closed communication page for the council presidents and plans to prepare a draft. He stated that if a president does not have an email address then another member of the executive board will be included in this page. This will be monitored.

Board members have discussed financial review and re-certification and to this, Mr. Weber stated that he came up with a package to be distributed. He changed the form to better clarify that the board is requesting the financial review every two years and has explained what the board is looking for. Mr. Weber would like Ms. Liupaeter to distribute this to all council presidents and await their responses. Ms. Davis would like the regional coordinators to receive a copy of this package.

Adjournment:

Mr. Weber reminded all board members to RSVP. This will assist with regard to ordering food and indicating whether or not there will be a quorum.

There being no further business, Mr. Weir moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter