

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

MICHAEL WEBER, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at 6:06 PM at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Mike Weber, chairman; Eric van den Beemt, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, David Smylie, Greg Heitner, Chuck Munzert, Brian Weir and Robbie Palmisano. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, and Mike Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice Chairman Eric van den Beemt motioned to approve the July board meeting minutes, Brian Weir seconded, and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Mike Weber reported on the passing of longtime board member Dunbar Brooks. Mr. Weber stated that Mr. Brooks was very important to the board and will surely be missed.

Congratulations are in order for Robbie Palmisano, who, Mr. Weber reported, was recognized by WBAL for the charity he created.

Director's Comments

Director Barry F. Williams commented on the passing of Mr. Brooks. He stated that the funeral was held about two weeks ago; however, a memorial service is scheduled to take place on September 19 at 6 PM at CCBC – Dundalk. Mr. Williams spoke to Edie Brooks (Mr. Brooks' wife) today regarding the service and stated that he plans to attend and speak about Mr. Brooks' involvement with the Board of Recreation and Parks. He invited board members to attend.

Festivities began about a week ago regarding the War of 1812. Tomorrow, approximately 500 National Guardsmen will march from Patterson Park to Battle Acre Park. Mr. Williams briefly spoke of the re-enactments and invited all to attend.

Regarding background checks, Mr. Williams reported that the committee has gathered a lot of information while making numerous visits to neighboring counties. In addition, Mr. Williams reported that the county has contracted two individuals who have been looking at efficiencies within county government. They have been meeting with the background check committee and recently made a presentation to Fred Homan, on the committee's findings. Mr. Homan announced that he would like to look into the RAPTOR System, the system Baltimore County Public Schools are currently using. The system is capable of doing more than what the school system is using it for and there has been discussion of a potential partnership with the school system to expand on this system.

However, a plan must be in effect by July 2015. Mr. Williams stated that when he has something more, he will share this with the board.

Old Business:

Chuck Munzert and Mr. Weir attended the meeting regarding the PUD for the North Point Government Center. Mr. Weir stated that there were a number of good presentations. He further stated that if this goes through, the police station will be moved to Eastwood, posing the question about what will be done with the parkland at this site. Mr. Williams stated that he recently had a good conversation with Bob Staab. He stated that there was a second meeting for anyone who had concerns with this project; however, Mr. Williams commented that Recreation and Parks has not been invited to weigh in. He reported that we know the square footage, as does everyone else, and just yesterday we were asked about the wrestling mats and the location of the restrooms. Further discussion ensued and Mr. Williams commented that the boards' points are well taken. Mr. Williams stated that the department made recommendations; however, we will see what comes of this. Board members discussed the meetings between Vanguard and the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council President. Mr. Weir stated that the Region 4 Presidents meeting is tomorrow night and Dundalk-Eastfield is hosting. He plans to talk to them. Brief discussion ensued.

New Business:

Mr. Munzert inquired about the meetings with Property Management. Mr. Weir responded stating that they have been holding secret meetings and never notified the board. They have held several meetings, with about five recreation council presidents at a time. Mr. Williams replied stating that Property Management has been having meetings with recreation council presidents and Beahta Davis has been in attendance. Mr. Williams stated that these are not his meetings; the board is invited to attend the meetings he hosts. Several members of the board feel they should have been invited to attend the Property Management meetings.

Regarding social media, Mr. Heitner announced that he is ready to go forward with this project. He would need a list of invitees and their names as they appear on FaceBook. Recreation council presidents and vice presidents would be invited to participate; however, if they do not have a FaceBook account and do not wish to open one then they may nominate another member of his/her council to take their place. Mr. Weber suggested that Mr. Heitner draft an explanatory letter to be distributed to each recreation council president. Mr. Heitner stated he would work on this and forward to Mr. Weber for review before distribution. Mr. Weir replied stating that he would mention this at the Region 4 presidents meeting.

Mr. Weber stated that he needs a discussion to take place amongst the financial review committee regarding follow-up. Mr. Weir responded stating that he would mention this at the Region 4 presidents meeting.

The Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council made revisions to their constitution and by-laws and submitted them to the board for approval. Board members reviewed the document and brief discussion ensued. Mr. Weber discussed the wording in the by-laws under Article V, Section III and stated that he believes the section should read as follows: *“Once all obligations or commitments to these by-laws have been satisfied, the program on probation may return to a status of good standing for the remainder of the year. If another violation occurs within 12 months, program will lose all rights and permits.”* In addition, after looking over the financial procedures listed within the by-

laws, Mr. Weber stated that item number 3 should state, “501(c)(3)” and not “501C.” All board members were in agreement with Mr. Weber. See motion under “Action.” Mike Milani will talk to David Clevenger tomorrow and relay the board’s decision. Mr. Weber asked Mr. Milani to follow up with him after he speaks to Mr. Clevenger.

Mr. Milani discussed a situation where the treasurer of a recreation council has not been given information that they should be privy to. He stated that he is hopeful the council will work this out, but if they do not then the board may need to get involved. This is a matter of following the by-laws.

Board members discussed the email thread regarding the Upper Chesapeake Youth Football League Scheduling Complaint. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the Upper Chesapeake Youth Football League is an independent organization and recreation councils/teams choose to join this organization. He stated that the issue is not with Baltimore County, but with the independent organization, and further stated that this is not the board's jurisdiction. Discussion ensued. Mr. Milani stated that participation of a program will dictate how the program responds. Leslie Monfred stated that on any other religious holiday, programs are permitted to play.

Mr. Weber discussed the email thread regarding the Greater Loch Raven Recreation Council and the failure to reimburse expenses. He suggested that Mr. van den Beemt make contact and investigate this matter, since this is within his representative councilmanic district.

The Angel Park group continues to distribute a large amount of marketing materials about the park and Mr. Heitner stated that the project continues to expand as the money keeps coming in. The group recently received a donation in the amount of \$100,000 to secure naming rights of the amphitheatre. Mr. Heitner received a call the next day questioning the county’s sale of naming rights. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Weber stated that there is information in the by-laws regarding naming of a facility/other. Mr. Williams replied stating that the department has a directive about this as well. Lisa Liupaeter will send this directive to board members.

Mrs. Monfred inquired about the rules for how much money a recreation council can have in their account. Mr. Weber responded that the by-laws state not more than 15% over expenses.

Mr. Williams reported that a member of the department has been reviewing the board’s constitution and by-laws in an attempt to clean them up. He stated that he hopes to have this for the board by the next meeting.

Action:

Mr. Milani motioned to approve the revisions to the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, as amended by the board, Mr. Weir seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Weir moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Munzert seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Liupaeter