

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

MICHAEL WEBER, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at 6:12 PM at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Mike Weber, chairman; board members Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Charles Gilman 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 requested a minor change in wording with regard to Angel Park. Brian Weir motioned to approve the September board meeting minutes with Mr. Heitner's requested change, Mr. Heitner seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments

Director Barry F. Williams announced that there is a ribbon cutting ceremony for Gough Park on October 31 at 11 AM. In addition, this Saturday there is an event planned to announce the new floor at Arbutus Recreation Center. All are welcome to attend.

Mr. Williams informed board members that he met with representatives from the Baltimore Ravens today and stated that they are looking forward to doing more with the community. Furthermore, the department is in collaboration with the Baltimore Blast as well.

Old Business:

Regarding the PUD for the North Point Government Center, Mr. Weir stated that he was in attendance at the senate debate and was confronted by Councilman Olszewski about why the board was getting involved with recreation and parks issues. Mr. Weir asked Mr. Williams about the plans for the Eastwood School, stating that the councilman is insisting that there is nothing going on at the site. Mr. Weir stated that the date to be out of the school is November 30. He stated that he thinks the board should see a copy of the plans, and went on to discuss the changes. Mr. Weir stated that the bottom line is that the community is losing parkland. Mr. Williams replied stating that we do not have access to plans, nor have we been consulted. Discussion ensued regarding program moves, some of which are outside of their council boundaries. Beahta Davis responded stating that there are programs in other areas that take place outside their community. Chairman Mike Weber stated that the board could draft correspondence requesting this information. Board members discussed the North Point Government Center as a separate issue from the school. They discussed the boards' charge and ability. Leslie Monfred and Charles Gilman applauded Mr. Weir for all his efforts.

New Business:

Mr. Heitner provided a recap of what the board has discussed with regard to social media. He announced that he has completed all tasks to set up the FaceBook account and believes this will work. Mr. Heitner stated that he has used something similar in the past and discussed the issues he encountered. He inquired about moving forward with this, or informing the Office of Law about their plans, and offering them a chance to weigh in. Mr. Williams responded stating that it is not a bad idea to go to the Office of Law. Mr. Heitner stated that they could inform the Office of Law about what it is they would like to do, while following all FaceBook regulations, and inquire about whether or not the Office of Law approves. Mrs. Monfred suggested developing standards/guidelines as to how this should operate, and the purpose for this. Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of having an account such as this; including the advantage of an open forum, which would allow council presidents to talk with one another and would also allow the board to interact with the presidents more frequently. On behalf of the board, Mr. Heitner plans to draft a letter to send to the Office of Law. He will send this letter to Mr. Williams for distribution to the Office of Law.

Regarding background checks, Mr. Williams reported that there is no new information since the last board meeting. The county administration is looking into the RAPTOR system, and Mr. Williams stated that they are not looking at passing the cost on to the recreation councils. When he receives more information he will share this with the board.

Mr. Williams distributed a copy of the by-laws to the board, with suggested revisions. He asked board members to review the document and send all comments and/or revisions to Lisa Liupaeter. Ms. Liupaeter will send this document to all board members via email. Mr. Williams requested that all comments and/or revisions be submitted within the next two weeks.

Ms. Liupaeter reported on which councils have submitted the requested forms for financial review recertification. Mr. Weber stated that he would draft a letter to send to those councils who have not yet complied. Mr. Weir inquired about whether or not the recreation councils have to be 501(c)(3). Mr. Weber replied stating that the councils must be 501(c)(3). Mr. Weir stated that he thinks there are many councils that are not. Mr. Weber requested a list of those councils that are not 501(c)(3). Ms. Liupaeter is to forward everything she has received thus far for Mr. Weber to review. Once Mr. Weber has reviewed what a council has submitted and deems that all appropriate documentation is complete, the name of the council will be posted on the website, recognized as having been certified by the board.

Regarding the Greater Loch Raven Recreation Council, Mr. Weber informed board members that Vice Chairman Eric van den Beemt looked into this and came up with a resolution to the situation. He sent correspondence indicating this, only to be given additional information from another party. Mr. van den Beemt plans to look into this.

There have been substantial contributions toward Angel Park and the board should be concerned that the funds be handled appropriately. Mr. Heitner stated that there has been fundraising conducted all over; however, nobody has seen a budget or the scope of the project. There is a lot of misinformation out there and Mr. Heitner believes the board needs to voice concern and ask to see something. Mr. Williams replied stating that the proposed budget is \$1.8 mil, and further stated that he saw the specs for the playground. Mr. Williams stated that once the Perry Hall Recreation Council has the funds they will turn this money over to the county to begin construction. He

reported that the department has not been involved in this project; however, the land has been deeded to us. In addition, the county/state contribution is unclear.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Heitner moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Gilman seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter