

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

MICHAEL WEBER, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at 6:00 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, Greg Heitner, Chuck Munzert, 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. Baltimore County Councilman Todd Crandell, 7th District representative was also in attendance.

Chairman Mike Weber introduced Councilman Todd Crandell and welcomed him to his first board meeting. Councilman Crandell provided background on himself, stating that recreation is near and dear to his heart. He stated that he is currently on an information gathering tour; the more information he has the better he can do for his community.

Approval of Minutes:

Leslie Monfred motioned to approve the November board meeting minutes, Brian Weir seconded, and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report:

Regarding the election of new officers for the board, Mr. Weber reported that no one has contacted Mike Milani to volunteer. Mr. Weber informed board members that his term is up on December 31, 2014 and encouraged someone to step up.

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams announced that the Cockeysville Community PAL Center ribbon cutting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 11:30 AM. All board members are invited to attend.

Next Thursday, Mr. Williams will attend the first Department Head meeting since the election. The County Executive plans to discuss his vision and the FY16 budget. Brief discussion ensued regarding the governors plans to handle the deficit. Mr. Williams stated that he thinks this will be passed on to the county level.

Mr. Williams recently had a conversation regarding board member appointments and notified the appropriate individual about the At-Large vacancy.

The County Council confirmed the purchase of the Sparks Elementary property. Mr. Williams stated that this looks very promising. In addition, he informed board members that with regard to this year's budget and POS, there are eight additional properties the county is looking at purchasing.

Old Business:

Regarding the financial review, Mr. Weber reported that not all councils have complied. He stated that he believes there are several in transit, while others are missing a few pieces of information. However, we still do not have the majority of the councils'. Mr. Weber stated the need for follow up. Chuck Munzert replied stating he has contacted every council president that has not yet complied, and received many different stories. Discussion ensued. Recreation and Parks staff will be asked to remind the councils to complete this process. Mr. Weber stated that the board is trying to enforce that the public is entrusting their money to the recreation council. Those in attendance made a motion on how to proceed. See Action item. Mr. Weber will draft talking points for the board and Ms. Davis will draft a list of repercussions. Mr. Williams suggested the board send a copy of the correspondence to the county council so they are aware of what is going on.

Robbie Palmisano provided handouts to the board regarding the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) status. He discussed this process with the board. There are six councils that are not 501(c)(3). This is a requirement of this board. The board is willing to help these councils with this process. Mr. Weber stated that he is would be willing to write a letter to those councils.

Vice Chairman Eric van den Beemt discussed the issue regarding the Greater Loch Raven Recreation Council. He stated that he thinks everything is all set. The information was cleared up with the president and the individual looking for reimbursement. A check should be issued by the end of the week. Mr. van den Beemt will follow up thereafter.

Greg Heitner drafted dialogue stating what the Facebook account is and what it is meant for. Mr. Williams reviewed and commented with some different language. The board discussed sending a letter to all councils explaining this; Mr. Heitner will work on the letter.

New Business:

Board members received a clean copy of the constitution and by-laws, with suggested revisions included. Mr. Weber stated that he would like to vote on this next month and asked that board members review the document.

Last month an appeal letter was circulated to the board members, with regard to the Turner Station Recreation Council. Mr. Weir spoke to Maurisha Graves-White, the recreation council president. Following board procedure, he informed them that they first have to appeal to the recreation council executive board. He has not heard anything more since relaying this information.

An email was recently sent to the board regarding the Liberty Road Recreation Council and issues that occurred at the last council meeting. The email addressed concerns regarding how the elections were held and revealed an issue with the council's constitution and bylaws. Apparently changes were made to the constitution and by-laws and the council voted to accept these changes, but never submitted this to the Board of Recreation and Parks for official approval. The council immediately began operating according to the new constitution and by-laws. Beahta Davis was in attendance at this meeting and provided additional information of the events of that meeting. She informed them that they could not operate according to the revised constitution and by-laws and reported that the corresponding secretary left the meeting before the elections took place. A part-time staff member coordinated the elections, but did not vote. The elections were held and only two previous board

members were re-elected. All of the newly elected members were from one basketball program; there is nothing in the constitution and by-laws preventing this from happening. As of today, the constitution and by-laws have yet to be submitted to the board for approval. Ms. Davis commented that their constitution and by-laws are vague and needs to be re-written. She stated that a board member should work with them to bring them in alignment with the recreation boards' expectations. Mr. Williams and Ms. Davis will draft a letter regarding this matter and will forward to Mr. Weber for his signature. Brief discussion ensued.

Since the last meeting, Mr. Weir reported that the plans for the government center were changed again. He discussed these changes with the board.

Regarding the carpet at SERRC, Mr. Weir stated that he believes someone finally got hurt. Mr. Williams replied stating that there was no incident report submitted; however, he will look into this. Mr. Weir stated that a work order was submitted in February and just recently, Rose Zaicko was told there was nothing wrong with the carpet and the work order was closed. Ms. Davis replied stating that she, Mr. Williams and staff have all looked into this and all agree that the carpet needs to be replaced. This is in the Purchasing and Disbursements Office now because it has to go out for bid.

Mr. Weir announced the cancellation of a 30 year old wrestling tournament, involving participants from seven states. He stated that this is the result of a JV basketball coach not wanting to move his practice. Ms. Davis replied stating that they had found an alternate location for the tournament, from Dundalk High School to the Randallstown Community Center. Mr. Milani stated that this is in accordance to the Joint Use Agreement; the schools have first priority and therefore, this is within their rights. Mr. Weir stated that he thinks this was the decision of the athletic director and not the principal, but the principal supported this decision. Mr. Weir asked Mr. Williams what actually came out of the meeting with the principals and the Joint Use Agreement. Ms. Davis stated that this is within the realm of the Joint Use Agreement. She further stated that staff asked the group early on if they wanted to move to another site and the answer was no. Discussion ensued. Mr. Williams spoke with the principal and he and Ms. Davis were trying to find another site in an attempt to prevent the cancellation of the tournament. The tournament had been displaced for the last two years due to construction. In addition, the school has a new athletic director, who probably did not even know about this tournament. The permit for the tournament was submitted in September and was not approved. Councilman Crandell had not heard about this issue until recently. Mr. Weir mentioned that tap and ballet are not permitted to use Dundalk High School. Mr. Munzert mentioned an issue with Bengies and Stembridge. Discussion ensued and board members found this situation unsettling. Mr. Williams stated that 95% of all things with the schools work out. See motion under Action item. Mr. Milani asked Ms. Davis to come up with a list of issues in each area. Mr. Williams reported that he reviewed the Joint Use Agreement with principals. He informed board members that he has quarterly meetings with Baltimore County Public Schools staff and stated that if there are specific issues, he would discuss this with them as he has in the past. Ms. Davis stated that these issues should go through staff.

Councilman Crandell discussed needing better communications and stated that he is focused on trying to get answers for his constituents. He stated that he would try to find solutions to assist the board in what they are trying to do. He stated that his door is always open to all. Mr. Weber thanked him for attending the meeting.

Action:

Mr. Munzert made a motion to send a letter to all councils that have not yet complied, stating that the board needs this information by January 31, 2015 or your council runs the risk of decertification. Mr. Weir seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Weir motioned to write a letter to the Board of Education requesting a meeting between both boards to discuss the ongoing problems with the Joint Use Agreement. Mr. Munzert seconded the motion and all were in favor. Mr. Weber will write the letter.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Weir moved to adjourn the meeting, Charles Gilman seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter