

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Eric van den Beemt, chairman, Chuck Munzert, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Isaac Manjoe, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler, Robbie Leonard and Alexis Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services, Kara Burman, regional coordinator, Region 1 and Michelle Washington, community supervisor, Arbutus/Lansdowne-Riverview/Baltimore Highlands. Michael Ruby from the Country Chronicle was also in attendance. In addition, Terry Fields from the Loch Raven Recreation Council and members Donte White, president, Channing Griffin, vice president and Heather Jones, treasurer of the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council were in attendance.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Weir motioned to approve the June board meeting minutes, Chip Hiebler seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams announced that, according to the county attorney, Charles Gilman would be resigning from the board.

Mr. Williams provided information to board members regarding the upcoming ceremony honoring George Breckenridge, and invited all to attend.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Mr. van den Beemt introduced Terry Fields, in attendance to address the board regarding the Loch Raven Recreation Council. Mr. Fields stated that he has been involved with the recreation council for many years and was urged to take over as chairman for the baseball program. He discussed the umpire organization the program has dealt with for years, stating that they pay them on the field. However, he spoke with Roxanne Stumpf who informed him that they should not be paying umpires on the field. Mr. Fields stated that he was unaware that this was wrong and stated that he found this out three games into the season. He started paying the umpire fees out of pocket, after trying Ref Pay, which did not work. He submitted a request for reimbursement, but never heard anything. He spoke with Ms. Stumpf about this and attempted to contact Don Buschman, but never heard back. Mr. Fields stated that reimbursement in the amount of \$894 was for approximately fifteen games,

which Mr. Buschman is questioning. Mr. Fields stated that he offered to set up Ref Pay for next year to ensure everything runs smoothly. He reported that the program started off with a \$3,000 deficit, which he is uncertain where this came from. He wanted to start fresh, but Mr. Buschman told him he could not; he received an email at the start of the program indicating that this happened the previous year. Mr. van den Beemt informed board members that he has sent several emails to Mr. Buschman over the last month and has not heard back from him. Mr. van den Beemt requested Mr. Buschman's telephone number and stated that the board needed to hear his side before rendering a decision. Robbie Leonard requested a copy of the budget. Discussion ensued, including proper payment of umpire fees. Beahta Davis stated that she thinks Mr. Buschman would be willing to meet with her, Mr. Fields and Neil Magness. She stated that Mr. Buschman's side is that Mr. Fields did not follow proper procedure.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. van den Beemt welcomed new student representative Alexis Lieberman. Ms. Lieberman provided background information and stated that she is excited to be here.

Mr. van den Beemt welcomed Isaac Manjoe, the new 4th councilmanic district representative. Mr. Manjoe provided background information as well.

Board Member Activities:

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert reported that he spoke with Bengies-Chase and indicated that this did not go anywhere. He stated that the council held their elections and most board members left. Mr. Munzert stated that the council needs more board members. Two people stepped up to help; however, they are not board members. Mr. Munzert suggested giving the council president a warning that this needs to be taken care of prior to the next meeting. Mr. Munzert commented that financially, the council is doing well. Mr. Williams stated that if the next meeting is in September then the board should give them until October to take care of this.

Mr. Munzert informed board members that the Back River Recreation Council has a meeting tonight. Mr. Munzert referenced the court hearing and stated that he plans to attend to hear what is going on with this.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Donte White and Heather Jones arrived, requesting to address the board regarding the decertified Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council. Mr. White reported that the vice president was on her way. Mr. White addressed the board stating that the decertification was a wakeup call to all. He reported that all documents requested by the board have been submitted. He stated that he would like to resolve these issues and get back to work for the community. The only thing they are working on now is the by-laws, and they are revamping their financial policies and procedures across the board. Mr. Munzert inquired about whether or not they have had any meetings. Mr. White replied stating that they have had an executive board meeting. Mr. White indicated that nominations were made and elections were held for the executive board. Leslie Monfred stated that it appears Mr. White's heart is in the right place, and it seems as though they have come a long way. She stated that the board is not in the business of decertifying councils; this is to help things run smooth. Mike Milani stated that there are not many requests the board asks of the councils; however, financially, the council is a mess. Mr. White announced that he would be resigning from

the football program. He stated that he wants to make sure the board knows that he wants to do everything the right way. Ms. Jones helped straighten out the books and stated that all money is accounted for. Discussion ensued regarding the audit and financial review, and the relationship of these members. Mrs. Monfred stated that the fewer people you have connected the better. Mr. White stated that he hopes to present the by-laws at the September meeting.

Mr. van den Beemt asked the three individuals to step out for a moment. Discussion ensued amongst board members. Mr. van den Beemt stated he would like to reinstate them as a council, but on probation for three months – with board members working with them during this time. Board members discussed the work that has been done thus far, Mr. White’s dedication and the dismissal of the previous treasurer. Mr. Milani stated that he would like to see them have their by-laws before their reinstatement. This could be presented to the board in October along with their financial statements. Michelle Washington stated that they have lost 4-5 programs to Baltimore-Highlands Recreation Council. Football, travel basketball and summer playground are the only programs left. Mr. van den Beemt asked Mr. Leonard to meet with the group. See motion under “Action.” The members were brought back in the board room. Discussion ensued and the motion was shared with them. Mr. White thanked the board for giving them this opportunity. Brief discussion ensued regarding the money in the account – if programs leave.

Board Member Activities Continued:

Mr. Manjoe inquired about a park on Rolling Road that floods a lot. He stated that he heard there are plans to do a land fill because the garden area is so low. Mr. Williams stated that he would look into this.

Mr. Leonard questioned whether any of the councils have reported problems with regard to the rain. He stated that games in the program he participates in are always getting canceled. Ms. Davis instructed him to contact the community supervisor in that area.

Mr. Weir announced that the carpet at SERRC was being installed. On another note, Mr. Weir reported that Rose Zaicko asked why board members are not invited to the Property Management meetings – she would like someone from the board there to validate their concerns. In addition, Mr. Weir inquired about what portion of Fort Howard Park is in recreation inventory. Ms. Davis replied stating she would get him a map. In addition, Ms. Davis stated that invites for the Property Management meetings are issued by Property Management, not Recreation and Parks.

Old Business:

At this point in time, Back River and Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Councils are the only two that have not submitted the financial review for recertification.

New Business:

Regarding the revisions to the Liberty Road Recreation Council’s Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Munzert reported that he last heard they were working on them. He will talk with Mr. Manjoe.

Mr. van den Beemt reported that he spoke with BCPS chair Dave Uhlfelder, who stated he is in total support of the Joint Use Agreement. Mr. van den Beemt told Mr. Uhlfelder that we need procedures to resolve issues – instead of waiting until the next meeting. Mr. Uhlfelder informed Mr. van den

Beemt that Bob Barrett would be very helpful with this, and is willing to assist. Mr. van den Beemt reported on a current issue at Hereford HS where permits have been denied. Ms. Davis replied stating that Kris Mervine and Maria Bieneman plan to meet with the Assistant Principal about this. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he knows nothing about this meeting. Ms. Davis stated that Mr. Mervine will let her know if this does not get resolved, at which point she will work with her counterparts. Ms. Davis stated that this would be discussed tomorrow at the quarterly meeting with BCPS.

Mr. Weir asked Ms. Davis if she has heard anything regarding Turner Station Recreation Council and The Green Family. Ms. Davis replied stating that she has not heard anything more from the family. All hope this has been resolved.

Mr. Williams provided an update on background checks stating that approximately 581 applications have been submitted and about 6 have been rejected. Discussion ensued regarding some concerns reported over the use of social security numbers, leading to some member resignations. However, for the most part, we have not heard much push back. Mr. Williams encouraged the board to fill out the online application for the background check so they are familiar with this process. Further discussion ensued regarding the need for a more thorough background check for officers of a council, especially those with access to the books. This is not required by the county, but could be required by the board. Discussion ensued regarding having these officers bonded. The reason for this is theft. Ms. Davis discussed having this group go through CJIS, which would be more extensive; however, this would cost \$36.25 per person. Board members discussed strongly suggesting this to the councils, providing them with all of the information. This could be a question included in the financial review. Discussion ensued regarding the details for making this work. Mr. Milani and Mr. Manjoe will bring information regarding bonding to the next meeting. Brief discussion followed, including making sure parents know that this has been implemented.

Board members received a letter from Councilman Todd Crandell requesting to honor Bob Noziaka and Howard Dunn by naming the new playground and surrounding park at Eastwood, "Bob Noziaka Park at Dinnie Field." Ms. Davis stated that we have not yet received results from the testing done at this site. This will determine whether or not a playground could be built.

After reviewing the proposed revisions to the Parkville Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Leonard questioned the use of the word probation, wanting this to be defined within the document. Mr. Manjoe stated that he would review the proposed revisions. Ms. Davis will provide him with a contact for the council.

Board members reviewed the proposed revisions to the Overlea-Fullerton Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws and a motion was made. See motion under "Action."

Action:

Mrs. Monfred motioned to recertify the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council, with the following stipulations: six months' probation, by-laws and written financial procedures submitted by September 30 and Mr. Leonard to meet with them to verify that everything is in order, Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Manjoe motioned to approve the revisions to the Overlea-Fullerton Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Munzert seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Hiebler moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter