

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 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, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard, Chip Hiebler and Lexi Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Board Member Activities:

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert announced that Ballestone's Christmas event is coming up. In addition, Mr. Munzert attended a few meetings, but has nothing additional to report.

Mr. Hiebler reported that the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council is doing great; the programs are running fabulously. Beahta Davis agreed. Mr. Hiebler plans to attend the next council meeting.

Mike Milani stated that he had a few issues over the last month; however, he spoke with Ms. Davis and all is fine.

Isaac Manjoe recently attended a council meeting and stated that the meeting went well.

Leslie Monfred attended "Do the Most Good," an event in which many were in attendance including County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, Councilwoman Vicki Almond and Robbie Leonard. She stated that it was a good evening, with attendees discussing how they felt about the election, and what they could do to move forward.

Mr. van den Beemt attended the Region 4 President's Meeting and stated that it went very smoothly. However, he stated there is one issue that keeps coming up – facility management. He suggested discussing this with the County Council membership. Mr. van den Beemt stated that if this meeting was typical of how the other President's Meetings went, then the County Council needs to recognize that this is an issue. Director Barry F. Williams suggested each board member talk to their council representative about their concerns now, instead of waiting until the annual dinner meeting. He stated that board members should be meeting with their council representatives on a regular basis. Board members discussed a solution to the problem, with multiple members stating that park and facility maintenance should return to Recreation and Parks. Mr. Williams informed board members that Ms. Davis meets with Property Management on a monthly basis and shares concerns. Discussion ensued regarding having a solution to the problem before discussing with the County Council membership. Mr.

van den Beemt encouraged board members to meet with their council representative to discuss. Further discussion ensued regarding Property Management's poor response time.

Comments from Individual Citizens:

Janet Miller thanked the board for addressing all of her concerns presented at the last board meeting, stating that she has seen progress with regard to the council.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams informed board members that Councilwoman Almond is very interested in looking at the Pikesville Armory property, for multiple uses. It is a very large property that had a polo field inside, and outside as well. There are a series of garages around the property; however, the building is in need of repair. Mr. Williams stated it would take millions of dollars to get it to where it needs to be. There is an interest for use for recreation and parks, as we do not have use outside of school sites in this area. Mr. Williams mentioned that he met with Marty Azola. They discussed this and Mr. Azola believes this has a lot of potential. This property is owned by the state, but located in the county. The state is going to surplus the property, giving the county the first right of refusal.

Towson Manor Park is coming along and Mr. Williams stated that he thinks we will be able to build a better playground. He is proud of what has happened there thus far. Part of the road has been dug up, allowing for more green space. Mr. Heitner commented that he was there last month and observed people *now* utilizing the site.

Mr. Williams discussed the Greenhouses of Radebaugh, a 2.36 acre parcel the county is planning to purchase, for \$1.1 million. He reported that we obtained a bond, which will cover the demolition of the greenhouses. Councilman David Marks asked Mr. Williams to attend the community meeting, which Mr. Williams stated, was very well attended. Brief discussion ensued. This is something Mr. Williams would like to see for all parks moving forward, stating that community input is key. Mr. Williams noted that there is currently no money committed to this project.

The air conditioning project at school sites has been placed at the top of the list. Mr. Williams informed board members that this would affect recreation and parks. The department had been making plans for this project; however, now the timeframe has changed. Mr. Williams stated that staff are trying to find alternate sites for programming, but indicated that we are running out of options. Mr. Weir discussed the use of community colleges, and the associated fees. Ms. Davis replied stating that she would look into the fees Mr. Weir mentioned. In addition, Ms. Davis stated that Mr. Heitner, Mr. Weir and Mr. Munzert's areas are the hardest hit. Due to construction staging, recreation and parks is unable to utilize the inside or outside of these sites.

Mr. Williams announced that the last President's Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Regarding community meetings, Mr. Williams stated that when the department starts having these, he would notify board members so they can attend.

Old Business:

Mr. van den Beemt reported that the recertification information was distributed to council presidents. Lisa Winters reported on a few of the questions she has received, and Ms. Davis relayed the request from Towsontowne Recreation Council for an extension. Mr. van den Beemt agreed to give them until February 1. Ms. Davis stated that she would relay this information to the council.

Mr. Munzert reported that he attended the Back River Recreation Council meeting and believes they addressed all concerns. Mr. Weir echoed Ms. Miller's remarks, and both stated they think things are good.

Regarding the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, Mr. van den Beemt reported that Mr. Williams received an email from Rosemary Nicholas stating that she requested a list of the Board of Directors from the council and has still not received this information. Mr. Williams stated that he spoke with Chris McCollum today and was told the board has still not provided this information to the local recreation and parks staff. Mr. van den Beemt replied stating that this is not an unreasonable request. Mr. Williams stated that the council president should be at the President's Meeting tomorrow and he and Mr. van den Beemt can address this. Mr. Williams reported that the council has voted in a whole new set of directors, and Mr. McCollum has been attending their meetings. Mr. van den Beemt asked Mr. Williams whether or not the issues brought before the board had been cleared up. Mr. Williams replied, stating that they have. Brief discussion ensued.

New Business:

Mr. Weir reported that, after the last President's meeting, he was asked to thank both Mr. Williams and Ms. Davis. In addition, Mr. Weir followed up with Ms. Davis regarding the West Inverness signage, and texted Ms. Davis over the weekend regarding an issue with the Watersedge Recreation Council. Mr. Weir reported that the football chair with Watersedge Recreation Council was let go, and went to Gray Charles. The chair then accepted 50 Ravens tickets for children of a council he is no longer with, and then sold the tickets on Facebook. The Ravens were notified. This situation was discussed at the meeting of the Region 4 presidents and Mr. Weir informed them that he would discuss this with the Board of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Weir stated that he believes the Board of Recreation and Parks should uphold the suspension of this individual, stating that this is theft.

Regarding North Point Government Center, Mr. Weir reported that this was let out of court and turned back over to the Board of Public Works. Discussion ensued. Mr. Williams informed board members that two staff members went to present before the Board of Public Works and were cut off and lectured by Peter Franchot. The theatre and wrestling programs are still at this site. Discussion ensued regarding the safety of the building. The project is at a standstill. Brief discussion ensued regarding Dundalk United and their wants, and lengthy discussion ensued regarding the situation.

Mr. Williams announced that Mr. Munzert, Mr. Milani and Mr. Heitner have all been reappointed to the board. In addition, Mr. Williams announced that we have 100% participation regarding the background check policy, from the Board of Recreation and Parks.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Heitner moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Weir seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters