

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 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, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir and Lexie Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Kara Burman, regional coordinator, Region 1 and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison.

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Comments from Individual Citizens:**

Janet Miller came before the board to discuss concerns regarding background checks. She informed board members that she was approved for the background check under the Perry Hall Recreation Council, while assisting with the Angel Park build. She then applied again for her role with the Back River Recreation Council, as mandated, but was told her submission was a duplicate. This was not something she was informed of; she had to follow-up with SSCI. She is concerned that the Back River Recreation Council will assume she is not in compliance, which, she fears, would jeopardize her program. The council has a meeting next week; Ms. Miller asked board members/county staff to attend and explain the situation. Michael Schneider briefly discussed the concern/issue with using a previous check, as new information could have come about that was not present at the time of the initial check. Director Barry F. Williams stated that Mr. Schneider could submit verification to Back River Recreation Council, on behalf of Ms. Miller. Mr. Williams suggested that anyone else with issues should contact Mr. Schneider.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Brian Weir motioned to approve the December board meeting minutes, Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Mr. Munzert questioned the new policy at Eastern Regional Park that prohibits children over 12 from using the facility. Both Mr. Williams and Kara Burman replied stating that they have not heard of such a thing. Ms. Burman plans to look into this. On another note, Mr. Munzert inquired about procedures for reporting theft to the county, and referenced the meeting with Adam Lippe. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Lippe provided attendees with his telephone number and stated that he could be contacted directly. Mr. Munzert stated that the theft has not yet been reported. Mr. Williams said, just as he has said in the past, that all thefts need to be reported.

Mike Milani attended the Catonsville Recreation Council meeting and reported that there is a group that wants to keep the old Catonsville Elementary School building in place; however, the council would like to go on record stating that they want a new center. Mr. Milani discussed this with Bryan Sheppard. Mr. Williams

replied stating that there are no plans to revisit the design, or any other option for Catonsville Elementary School.

Leslie Monfred announced that there is another “Do the Most Good” meeting, scheduled Wednesday, January 18, if anyone would like to attend. In addition, Mrs. Monfred reported on her involvement with the Feeding America Backpack Program, a program that has been helping children get the nutritious and easy-to-prepare food they need to get enough to eat on the weekends. She asked board members to contribute items or monetary donations towards the program.

Greg Heitner reported that the Perry Hall and Parkville areas have great concern over not being able to use sites because of construction.

Mr. Weir informed board members that the Region 4 President’s Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening. He discussed the suspension of the individual that sold Ravens tickets, and went on to discuss construction and not being able to use facilities during this time. In addition, he stated that the councils shared concern regarding the mandate to become bonded. He informed them that this was suggested, not mandated; however, the councils think it reads as a mandate.

Mr. van den Beemt attended the Agriculture, Nature & Special Facilities President’s Meeting and commented on the lack of concerns amongst the group. He stated that things seem to be under control and they appear to be pleased with the guidance and support they are receiving.

Lexie Lieberman reported that her lacrosse team is looking for a community service project. Mr. Weir suggested the Bread and Cheese Creek trash clean-up.

### **Director’s Comments:**

Mr. Williams reported on a meeting he attended last week, at the Ag Center. Chris McCollum spoke to the group of attendees, per Fred Homan, regarding the proposed maintenance shop at this site. Mr. Williams reported that someone from the county went before the Board of Public Works and stated that there was no opposition on this project, which was not accurate. There were many people in attendance. Mr. Williams stated that we have received a lot of correspondence regarding this issue, and reported that he is not 100% certain that this project will take place. Mr. Williams stated that correspondence addressed to the County Executive have been directed to Mr. McCollum for response.

### **Old Business:**

Lisa Winters provided an update on those councils that have submitted recertification paperwork, and those that have requested an extension. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the board would be fine with granting a reasonable extension. The board plans to revisit this at the next meeting, and discussed sending out a reminder with board member follow-up.

Regarding the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, Mr. van den Beemt reported that he 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. van den Beemt approached the president at the recent President’s Meeting and informed her that the requested information is public information. After brief discussion, the president stated that she would have this information in the office by December 31. In addition, Ms. Nicholas recently inquired about council boundaries. Mr. van den Beemt informed her that nature councils do not have boundaries.

**New Business:**

Ms. Burman announced that she has been working with the Reisterstown Recreation Council, which is under new leadership – Liz Miller. They are making some brief changes to their by-laws regarding general membership meetings. Ms. Burman stated that they are doing positive things.

Mr. van den Beemt thanked board members for their continued efforts, stating that their involvement with the councils has allowed things to get resolved on a local level.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mrs. Monfred moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters