

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, March 8, 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, Isaac Manjoe, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler, Robbie Leonard and Lexie Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services, Shawn Sprole, community supervisor, Regional Facilities, 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:**

Dave Goodwin, acting president for Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council (LTRC), for the past 1 ½ years, and Bill Kalista, treasurer, came before the board to address their concerns regarding the county's requirement of a Social Security Number (SSN) for processing background checks, and how this relates to their council recertification. Mr. Goodwin stated that they submitted their recertification paperwork as a council that has been in good standing; have been used as a model for other councils with regard to finances, etc. They have tried to address the background check issue for about 1 ½ years now, stating that requiring a SSN is against federal law. Additionally, he stated that SSCI can process the background check without having the SSN. Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Kalista and the vice president have tried again to apply for the background check, without providing their SSN, and their applications were refused. Mr. Goodwin informed board members that they had been placed on the list of approved volunteers last year, without supplying their SSN to SSCI. Mr. Goodwin further stated that their council's recertification should not be jeopardized because of their issue with regards to the background check.

Mr. Kalista provided background information to board members and stated that it is a violation of federal law to require someone to give their SSN, referencing the Privacy Act of 1974. He discussed this with SSCI and was told that they do not need a SSN to perform the background check. Mr. Kalista reported that SSCI processed their background check this way in 2015. Mr. Kalista stated that Baltimore County needs to inform SSCI that they can process the background checks without the requirement of a SSN.

Mr. van den Beemt reported that Director Barry F. Williams is awaiting a response from the Law Office about this matter. In the meantime, LTRC's certification will not be taken away. (Mr. Goodwin requested to have this in writing.) Mr. van den Beemt stated that, as a board, it is their job to uphold county policy. Mr. Williams provided background information regarding the request to the Law Office for a reply, as this is a county policy/mandate, not a department policy/mandate. Mr. Williams stated that he would be in touch with Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Kalista.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chip Hiebler motioned to approve the February board meeting minutes, Isaac Manjoe seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert reported on the fields at Route 43, stating that he attended a meeting with the Eastern Area Civil Group. He announced that they have obtained funds; the fields and lights have been ordered and we should start seeing activity by May 1.

Mr. Hiebler commented that he has been busy with the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum.

Lexie Lieberman informed board members that her school is holding a blood drive, if anyone is interested in participating.

Mr. Manjoe commented that he reviewed recertification paperwork for Liberty Road Recreation Council, which was recently sent to him. After careful review, he made the recommendation to recertify the council.

Brian Weir inquired about notification of the Region 4 President's Meetings, further stating that it is not happening. Beahtha Davis replied stating that it should be the president of the group making the notification. Brief discussion ensued. On another note, Mr. Weir stated that the fields in his area are hurting; they are in terrible shape. Ms. Davis informed Mr. Weir that she spoke with Property Management today and was told that they will begin maintenance on the fields March 13, weather permitting. In addition, Mr. Weir inquired about Eastwood Park. Ms. Davis informed him that she has not heard anything.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Mr. van den Beemt met with Bob McClelland, from Towsontowne Recreation Council, and reported that they have issues regarding fields. He will discuss this under "New Business."

### **Director's Comments:**

Mr. Williams told board members that we will begin scheduling the president's meetings, making sure to work around the two upcoming dinner meetings.

### **Old Business:**

Lisa Winters provided an update on those councils that have submitted recertification paperwork, and noted which board member the information was sent to, for review. Board members motioned to approve those they have reviewed (with the exception of LTRC). See item under "Action." A letter will be sent to those councils the board has voted to recertify. Ms. Winters will update the recertification spreadsheet and send to all board members.

### **New Business:**

Board members were all in receipt of the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum's Constitution and By-Laws, containing the council's proposed revisions. Mr. Hiebler made revisions to the proposed document, and plans to send to board members for review. Board members will have three (3) business days to review the document and submit comments to Mr. Hiebler. If Mr. Hiebler does not receive anything from board members, this will indicate their approval and he will forward the document to Cynthia deJesus.

Mr. van den Beemt reported that he is still receiving emails from Rosemary Nicholas. Brief discussion ensued.

Regarding Towsontowne Recreation Council, Mr. van den Beemt reported that he met with members of the council, and the desire for a 90' diamond was expressed. They told Mr. van den Beemt that if they contributed money that this could happen, but this is not being done correctly. Mr. Williams replied stating that the council approached him a few years ago for an artificial turf field, and asked how much it would cost them. Mr. Williams told them that it would be \$250,000. About a year later, the department had the opportunity to partner with the Ravens and Caves. Mr. Williams called the council to discuss and they were not as thrilled to spend the money. Don Mohler and Bryan Sheppard worked out an agreement with the council, to contribute a total of \$150,000 – providing \$75,000 up front and another \$75,000 after the field was built. Mr. Williams stated that he has no knowledge beyond this. The council has not turned over the last \$75,000; we have been instructed not to permit the artificial turf field to them.

Mike Milani discussed the Catonsville Recreation Council lacrosse program, stating that it has been a great program for the last 30 years. They have reached out to the board for assistance with issues they are experiencing. However, Mr. Milani informed them that he cannot do anything to assist them until they comply with running all their money through the council, and he has told them the proper way of doing this. It was reported that this program has their own checkbook. Ms. Davis announced that the council president has implemented online registration; however, with unrealistic deadlines. Mr. Milani stated that he ran a lacrosse program with this council and the group would get together and play; the participants did not pay. This is something the council president cannot understand. Mr. Milani stated that it was not worth the hassle to continue running the program through the Catonsville Recreation Council.

As head of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Milani reported that Mr. van den Beemt and Mr. Munzert are both willing to serve another year as chairman and vice chairman. Mr. Milani asked if there were any other nominations, and there were none. See item under “Action.”

Mr. Williams introduced Shawn Sprole, community supervisor, Regional Facilities. Brief discussion ensued as Mr. Sprole discussed the facilities he oversees.

Mr. van den Beemt announced that the next meeting is the dinner with the Baltimore County Council Membership, scheduled for April 3. He asked board members if they had any issues they wished to discuss at this meeting. Overall consensus amongst board members is that Property Management maintenance of parks and facilities continues to be an issue. Discussion ensued. Mr. Williams urged board members to meet with their representative to discuss, prior to the dinner, so as not to catch them off guard. Board members asked Mr. Goodwin his thoughts on the issue, comparing maintenance now to the way it was conducted ten (10) years ago. Mr. Goodwin replied stating that he is in full agreement with board members, stating it is absolutely horrible. Discussion ensued regarding how maintenance was, when part of Recreation and Parks, and how it is now. Board members recognize that getting maintenance back under Recreation and Parks is not something that will happen overnight; however, the dialogue should start now. Mr. Williams urged board members to inquire as to where their representatives stand with regard to Recreation and Parks.

Mr. Williams briefly discussed the change to the Maintenance Shop scheduled to be built at the Ag Center, due to push back from the community.

### **Action:**

Board members reviewed recertification paperwork for Edmondson-Westview, Lake Roland, Towsontowne, Maryland Agricultural Resource Council, Prettyboy, Seventh District, Liberty Road, Berkshire-Eastwood, Dundalk-Eastfield and Watersedge, and saw no reason not to recertify these councils. Robbie Leonard motioned to recertify these councils; Mr. Milani seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Greg Heitner motioned to elect Mr. van den Beemt as chairman of the board, and Mr. Munzert as vice chairman. Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Weir moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters