

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Monday, April 3, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Eric van den Beemt, chairman; Chuck Munzert, vice chairman; board members Leslie Monfred, Isaac Manjoe, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler and Lexie Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison. Michael Ruby, Country Chronicle, was also in attendance.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

Board Member Activities:

Greg Heitner reported that he has received an astronomical amount of calls and emails regarding the new turf field schedule for regional parks, primarily for Honeygo and Eastern Regional. Director Barry F. Williams replied stating that he recently had a meeting regarding Reisterstown Regional, but believes this has been worked out. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that councils should be practicing in their community, and requested dates should be submitted to the local community supervisor. Further discussion ensued regarding Perry Hall HS: school raised \$100,000 and \$150,000 from state legislator. Mr. Williams stated that he heard they were only going to do two more artificial turf fields. Perry Hall, thanks to the efforts of Senator Klausmeier and others, will be getting an artificial turf field.

Brian Weir stated that he was inundated with phone calls, regarding field conditions, as the beginning of baseball season is underway. Mr. Weir stated that he believes the board has accomplished more in the past five years, as they continue working together.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. van den Beemt asked board members to look over the proposed minutes from the March meeting, focusing on the Banneker dialogue, in particular. He stated that Janet Johnson is contesting that the board should not have made a change to the amount the president is permitted to spend without approval of the board. Mr. van den Beemt told Ms. Johnson that the board would review the minutes regarding this conversation, to ensure that all board members are in agreement. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the board agreed that \$250 is an excessive amount of money to be spent without approval. He discussed the email sent to Chip Hiebler, on March 21, about this matter. Mr. Hiebler notified Cynthia deJesus of the board's conclusions, and Ms. Johnson responded. Discussion ensued regarding the chain of emails that followed. After revisiting this matter, a motion was made. See item under "Action." Mr. Williams stated, in an effort to be consistent, he knows not all councils have this clause in their by-laws, and he suggested this be a rule, not only for Banneker, but for all councils. He stated that it is good practice. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the board should review by-laws for best practices, as they come in.

Isaac Manjoe motioned to approve the March board meeting minutes, Mr. Weir seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams stated that he would look into the issues regarding Honeygo and Eastern Regional Parks.

Old Business:

Regarding the Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council, the board discussed what took place at the last meeting, reviewing Mr. van den Beemt's thoughts about waiting for a reply from the Law Office, before taking action against the council. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he thought the reply would only take one to two weeks. Mr. Hiebler emailed Councilman Quirk about this issue and read the Councilman's reply aloud. Leslie Monfred stated that volunteering is not a right, it is a privilege, and not another week should go by, allowing people to violate the background check policy. Mr. Manjoe stated that he does not think the board should rush the decision to remove volunteers, if Mr. Williams is going to have a reply soon. Mr. Williams replied stating that Mike Filed told him that he was taking his reply to Fred Homan for discussion. Discussion ensued. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he thinks waiting for the letter from the Law Office will ensure that the board is not put in the middle of a legal battle. Mrs. Monfred made a motion. See item under "Action."

Board members discussed recertification. Mr. van den Beemt asked board members if they have contacted the presidents of those councils that have not submitted recertification paperwork. Lisa Winters will send board members an updated council board list for board members to verify that background checks have been completed on all. Mrs. Monfred stated that board members need to continue to get the word out about background checks; there are so many volunteers that are unaware of this policy. Mrs. Monfred state that she saw this first hand, from the meetings she has attended. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the deadline for contacting non-compliant councils, to get resolution, is May 11. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Winters provided an update on councils that have submitted a portion of the required paperwork. 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. Mrs. Winters will update the recertification spreadsheet and send to all board members.

New Business:

Regarding the Baltimore County Public Schools air conditioning project, Mr. Weir reported on a little note that was posted regarding asbestos. This note is posted; however, children and teachers are in the school all day, and workers are showing up in full gear at 3:30 p.m. Parents are questioning whether this is safe. Mr. Weir stated that there is no plastic hung in the area they are working on. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Weir which school he is referencing and Mr. Weir told him it was Battle Grove ES. Mr. Williams stated that he would look into this.

Board members discussed the conversation they had with the Baltimore County Council membership, earlier in the evening, regarding concerns/issues with Property Management. The council members urged board members to send them these concerns, along with photos. Mr. Williams stated that he would email the regional coordinators for a list of issues still pending. Mr. Weir stated that he has many, many photos, and referenced a specific incident where a work order was submitted, but the problem was not resolved; the community had to take care of the issue.

Action:

Regarding Article 11, Section 6, of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, Mrs. Monfred motioned to reiterate the recommendation to reduce the maximum amount of discretionary funds the president can spend, from \$250 to \$100. Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mrs. Monfred made a motion that if the board does not receive a letter from the Law Office, with clarification, by Friday, then the chair is to send a letter, notifying individuals that are in non-compliance, that they are no longer permitted to volunteer. Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion, Mr. Weir and Mr. Manjoe abstained, and all others were in favor.

Board members reviewed recertification paperwork for Colgate and North Point Village, and saw no reason not to recertify these councils. Mr. Weir motioned to recertify these councils; Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters