

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at Cromwell Valley Park – Sherwood House, Baltimore, Maryland. In attendance were Eric van den Beemt, chairman; Chuck Munzert, vice chairman; board members Leslie Monfred, Isaac Manjoe, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard and Lexie Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison. Ginny Terhune, East County Times, was also in attendance.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Ginny Terhune attended the council meeting, which was held earlier in the day, and reported that there was much discussion regarding field conditions. Ms. Terhune stated that this work is handled by contractors, and it was stated that the condition of the fields has declined dramatically over the years. Discussion ensued.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams stated that he will honestly miss Dr. S. Dallas Dance, superintendent, Baltimore County Public Schools, reiterating what he stated during the dinner with Board of Education. Dr. Dance always took his calls and provided remedies to most situations. Mr. Williams reported that Ed Gilliss, chair, Board of Education, would like to have someone fill this position for the interim of the next two years. Brief discussion ensued regarding the upcoming change to the school board. Mr. Williams stated that five of these members will be elected.

Mr. Williams had the pleasure of attending State of the Schools, and reported that it was a very good presentation for the school system. Greg Heitner and Isaac Manjoe were also in attendance. Mr. Heitner stated that it was a great event! Mr. Manjoe agreed.

Regarding artificial turf fields, Mr. Williams reported that Perry Hall will get one. Brief discussion ensued.

Board Member Activities:

Mr. Manjoe reported that he met with members of the Liberty Road Recreation Council, regarding fees. They would like the board to see what they could do to reduce costs. Mr. Manjoe spoke with Beahta Davis about this and was told that the council was not communicating with Paul Edwards. This was rectified and all seems to be okay now.

Old Business:

Mike Milani was to go back to the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, after the last board meeting, regarding the proposed revisions to the constitution and by-laws. Mr. Milani is not in attendance. This item should remain on the agenda for discussion at the next board meeting. Mr. van den Beemt plans to contact Mr. Milani to see if there was any resolution.

Board members discussed recertification. Leslie Monfred stated that the Reisterstown Recreation Council is working on completion. Bob Frank is currently serving as acting president because the current president has other business she needs to tend to. Towson Recreation Council has completed this, but has not yet submitted. Mr. van den Beemt reported that he has contacted all councils in his area. He has received paperwork from Oregon Ridge Nature Council, and plans to review ASAP.

Mr. van den Beemt stated that the president of Carroll Manor does not think he needs to complete the background check and said that he would step down if necessary. Mr. van den Beemt reported that general elections will take place for Carroll Manor at the end of June. The current president asked about remaining until then. Mrs. Monfred stated that the board has backing from the Baltimore County Council and the Law Office; any board member not willing to comply with the background check needs to step down immediately. Mrs. Davis informed board members of a discussion that took place at the last Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council (LTRC) meeting, reporting that board members – who have not complied with the background check – plan to resign at the end of their term, and the council plans to elect new members that have completed the background check. Mrs. Davis stated that we have not received anything in writing. Mrs. Monfred replied stating that there is no reason to give an extension to those in non-compliance. Discussion ensued. Mr. van den Beemt stated that Carroll Manor and LTRC are the two councils in his area that have non-compliant board members.

Mr. van den Beemt stated that there are two issues here: recertification, and making sure all board members are in compliance with the background check. Mr. Manjoe reported that he is trying to meet with the president of the Woodlawn Recreation Council. Mr. Heitner reported that he spoke with White Marsh and Perry Hall Recreation Councils, and was told that they plan to submit recertification paperwork soon. He reached out to Kingsville, Parkville and Greater Loch Raven Recreation Councils but had not heard back. Mr. Heitner will verify background checks and follow-up regarding recertification. Mr. Munzert reported that he was waiting for the president of the Rosedale Recreation Council to sign the forms; they were already submitted, but missing a signature. Bengies-Chase Recreation Council submitted an old form; the new revised form needs to be submitted. He received recertification paperwork from Middle River Recreation Council and Marshy Point Nature Council. He has reached out to the president and treasurer of Overlea-Fullerton Recreation Council, but they have not returned his calls. They submitted forms, but no tax returns. Mr. Weir reviewed recertification paperwork for West Inverness, Turner Station, Edgemere-Sparrows Point, Essex and Gray Charles Recreation Councils. Bear Creek is working on their paperwork, Back River submitted forms, but no tax returns, and the Baltimore County Sailing Center has not submitted anything to date.

Mr. van den Beemt stated that there are a number of councils that have not responded to request for recertification. He plans to write a letter to those councils that have not submitted or responded to the board, copying the Baltimore County Council. The remedy is to consider decertification. Mr. van den Beemt has a list of those councils to receive the letter. Lisa Winters will notify the councils that were approved for recertification. She will also notify the Baltimore County Council. In addition, the list of certified councils will be posted on the website. See item under “Action.”

Board members discussed background checks and those not agreeing to comply. They discussed board action and the result/consequence of decertification. See item under “Action.” Mr. van den Beemt will contact LTRC and Carroll Manor Recreation Council. In addition, he plans to contact Mr. Milani and share board’s decision.

Mr. van den Beemt asked all board members to review the background checks. Mrs. Winters will send an updated recertification spreadsheet, adding another column for background checks.

New Business:

Regarding the proposed revisions to the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Weir stated that he went over everything with the council. See item under "Action."

Mr. Weir inquired about year round programs and who makes this decision. Mrs. Davis replied stating that this is based on funding availability. Brief discussion ensued.

Action:

Board members reviewed recertification paperwork for Cromwell Valley Park, Edgemere-Sparrows Point, Essex, Gray Charles, Marshy Point, Middle River, Owings Mills, Pikesville, Turner Station and West Inverness Recreation/Nature Councils and saw no reason not to recertify these councils. Mrs. Monfred motioned to recertify these councils; Mr. Leonard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Heitner made a motion stating if members of LTRC and Carroll Manor Recreation Council are not in compliance with the background check – by 9:00 a.m. Monday – board members have agreed to decertify their councils, effective Monday. Mrs. Monfred seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Weir motioned to approve the proposed revisions to the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, with the instruction to correct the address of Department Headquarters. Mrs. Monfred seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

Mr. Heitner announced that Lexie Lieberman's term has come to an end. Board members thanked her for her contribution and attendance and wished her well. Mr. Williams reported that he heard from Rob Palmisano. He is doing well, finishing up his sophomore year with a 3.8 GPA.

There being no further business, Mr. Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters