

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, June 14, 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, Isaac Manjoe, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard and Chip Hiebler. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, and Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services. Michael Ruby, Country Chronicle, was also in attendance.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Weir motioned to approve the May board meeting minutes, Robbie Leonard seconded, and all were in favor.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Janet Miller came before the board to discuss mismanagement of the Back River Recreation Council. She is requesting decertification and closing of the council, with programs being absorbed by a neighboring council, and officers told they cannot serve in such capacity for three years. Ms. Miller stated that the officers of the council do not follow the by-laws. There are no financial reports, and treasurer reports are not submitted timely. She discussed cash funds (\$1600) that were not showing up on statements, and referenced overdrafts. She brought several issues up last fall, and was hopeful when the board was planning to send members out to investigate.

Ms. Miller took a moment to thank board members for addressing her previous concern regarding background checks. In addition, she inquired about a website survey, asking about the information collected. Director Barry F. Williams replied stating that he would follow up.

Ms. Miller left several documents for the board to review. She also stated that Ballestone needs to get their own 501(c)3. Beahta Davis replied stating that Ballestone's bank account is linked to Back River. Ms. Miller stated that they both have the same tax ID number.

Mr. van den Beemt informed Ms. Miller that the board would treat this seriously and conduct an investigation. Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert commented that there are definitely issues that need to be addressed. Ms. Miller shared that there was \$1600 that was presented to the council in the form of cash, yet there does not seem to be a record of it in the financial reports. Mr. Munzert stated that the \$1600 should be easy to track down – it's there or it's not. He plans to attend the next council meeting.

Board Member Activities:

Chip Hiebler reported on his attendance at the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council meeting and stated that this is the most community active council he has encountered. While at their meeting, he inquired about

recertification paperwork. In addition, he asked Mrs. Davis if she had a contact at Department of Social Services, in an effort to enroll children in the summer program, as they have done in the past.

Mike Milani attended the Catonsville Recreation Council meeting, but had to leave early. He believes that a slate of new officers were elected.

Isaac Manjoe reported that the Liberty Road Recreation Council is doing well.

Mr. Leonard recently took a drive throughout northern Baltimore County and stated that he saw lots of children outside playing lacrosse. He reported that it was very nice seeing so many participating in recreational activities.

Greg Heitner announced that the first concert was held at the amphitheater at Angel Park, with many in attendance. In addition, he reported that he has been in touch with the councils in his area regarding recertification. He stated that this has opened a good line of communication.

Mr. Weir attended the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council meeting. He informed board members that the council is not offering the James Ransom Camp this summer, due to low registration. Mrs. Davis replied stating those already enrolled in the camp are being transferred to Camp Green Tree. Some staff members will also be transferred. In addition, Mr. Weir commented that staff have been wonderful. He briefly discussed the Baseball Clinic Camp that the Police Department is running. This camp is free to children ages 7 – 14. Further discussion ensued regarding PAL and police officer involvement.

Mr. van den Beemt inquired about the student representative position. Mr. Williams informed him of the recent appointment of Dylan Sloan. Brief discussion ensued.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams told board members about an event he attended earlier in the day, in which the Ravens presented the department with a plaque. He stated that it was a very nice event with a great turn out.

In addition, Mr. Williams referenced the dinner with Board of Education last month, stating that Verletta White, who was in attendance at the dinner, will assume the role as acting superintendent. He stated that he feels very comfortable regarding accessibility to Ms. White and the Baltimore County Public Schools. He reported that Ms. White is working on her doctorate and has stated that she wants the permanent job.

Old Business:

Regarding recertification, board members reviewed paperwork for Bear Creek, Carroll Manor, Cockeysville, Hereford, Lutherville-Timonium, Oregon Ridge, Overlea-Fullerton, Parkville and Woodlawn Recreation/Nature Councils. See items under "Action." Discussion ensued regarding those councils the board has not yet recertified. Mr. Milani plans to follow up with Arbutus, to obtain their tax returns, and he plans to review the recertification paperwork from Baltimore Highlands, which was just submitted. Both he and Mr. Hiebler plan to attend the next council meeting for Banneker, and will report back to the board. Mr. Milani formally requested a one month extension for Catonsville (they did not sign one form, and did not submit the second form). Reisterstown requested an extension – they should have their taxes to the accountant by Monday. Leslie Monfred will follow up with Towson, to obtain their tax returns, and Mr. Heitner plans to follow up with Greater Loch Raven for their tax returns as well. During the meeting, Mrs. Davis received recertification information from Kingsville; however, they submitted the old form. She requested the submission of the new form. Mr. Heitner reported that Perry Hall is working on their recertification paperwork. White Marsh said they submitted their information; Mr. Heitner asked to whom and when, as their information was not received. Bengies-Chase submitted the old form, and Rosedale submitted the form without signature; Mr. Munzert to

follow up. Back River just submitted their tax returns; however, there are a couple of questions regarding inaccurate information listed; this will be discussed. The Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC) recently submitted their tax returns and requested an extension, until September, to complete their financial review. Mr. van den Beemt will reply to the BCSC, informing them that they have been granted a one month extension. Lisa Winters will update the recertification spreadsheet and send to board members.

Mr. Hiebler stated that he would follow up with Banneker regarding recertification. Mr. Williams announced that their elections are scheduled to be held the end of the month. Mr. Hiebler and Mr. Milani plan to attend this council meeting. Mr. Williams informed board member of the changes to staff at this site. Justine Schaeffer is no longer at the site; Winny Tan is now the community supervisor for this community.

New Business:

Mr. Heitner stated that he has been approached by three councils this spring season regarding scheduling of fields at regional parks. They reported issues about not knowing which fields are available, and the time it takes to pass these inquiries up the chain. Mr. Milani replied stating that the scheduling has worked out much better this year. Mrs. Davis responded stating that she believes once the school sites are reopened that this will alleviate much of the confusion. She stated that a change was made regarding how fields were allocated to the councils, to ensure they are being used fairly.

Action:

Board members reviewed recertification paperwork for Bear Creek, Carroll Manor, Cockeysville, Hereford, Lutherville-Timonium, Oregon Ridge, Overlea-Fullerton, Parkville and Woodlawn Recreation/Nature Councils and saw no reason not to recertify these councils. Mr. Heitner motioned to recertify these councils; Mr. Milani seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Milani moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Munzert seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters