

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, July 19, 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 Isaac Manjoe, Leslie Monfred, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard, Chip Hiebler and Dylan Sloan. 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 6:02 p.m.

Mr. van den Beemt welcomed new student representative Dylan Sloan. Board members introduced themselves and brief discussion ensued.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Colleen Baugher, with Back River Recreation Council, addressed the board regarding statements previously made during past meetings. She stated that she met with Brian Weir and Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert, after the June board meeting, and discussed the \$1600 in question. She reported that this money was collected from the sale of gymnastics equipment, and referenced a deposit form that was distributed to board members for review. Ms. Baugher took this as a personal attack on her character. She stated that she believes this was fabricated to make the board look bad, in an effort to disband the council. Board members replied stating that the concerns brought to them were about the council's accounting. Discussion ensued. Mr. Munzert discussed the problems with the executive board, and recognized Ms. Baugher's efforts. He referenced the lack of representation at the council meetings, and the lack of treasurer's reports. In addition, Mr. Munzert stated that Ms. Baugher reportedly submits Ballestone's information to the treasurer; however, this never shows up on the report. Mr. Weir stated that Janet Miller has brought issues to light; not making a personal attack. Mr. Weir inquired about Ballestone becoming their own council, and discussion ensued. Ms. Baugher replied stating that she has been working with Daryl Hunter, trying to do things the right way. She stated that she is not willing to give up on this organization. Mr. Munzert stated that the board is concerned about the Back River Recreation Council; they need to decide what they are going to do. Ms. Baugher replied stating that they are working to make it better, and she needs more time.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Weir motioned to approve the June board meeting minutes, Chip Hiebler seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams stated that he shares the board's feelings regarding the Back River Recreation Council and believes there is a level of accountability that needs to happen; they have not been able to get it together. Mr. Williams commented on the different dynamics and discussed Ballestone, stating that this should be a separate entity. Mr. Williams would like a meeting with Beahta Davis, Don Kuklinski and Cass Groth to make this happen quickly. The board recognizes that issues with the council have been going on for a long

time. Mr. Munzert reported that he and Mr. Weir contacted the programs of Back River Recreation Council and all are on board to go with an organization that knows what they are doing. Mr. Weir stated that Mr. Munzert spoke with Middle River Recreation Council and the council is willing to take on the programs of Back River. Mr. Weir suggested a merger of the councils, with Ballestone as a separate entity. Mr. Munzert stated that he spoke with Ms. Davis and she agreed that this would be a better fit with Middle River Recreation Council, rather than Essex-Stembridge Recreation Council. Discussion ensued regarding the suggested merger. See item under "Action." Mr. van den Beemt reiterated that this is about the inability to manage the recreation council efficiently. He thanked Mr. Weir and Mr. Munzert for the work they have done.

Board Member Activities:

Isaac Manjoe attended the Woodlawn Recreation Council meeting and stated that it was very interesting; however, poorly attended. Mr. Manjoe reported that their main concern was WiFi. The council was told that this would be installed and now they are happy. In addition, Mr. Manjoe attended the Liberty Road Recreation Council meeting, stating that this was a good meeting and well attended. Mr. Manjoe reported on their discussion regarding tennis courts. The council stated that tennis courts in other communities are well maintained, but not in their community. Mr. Manjoe stated that this concern will be discussed with Paul Edwards and then, with Ms. Davis. Mr. Manjoe inquired about the connection of the sign for Woodlawn Community Center, stating the council was waiting for approval by the department. Mr. Manjoe instructed them to speak to the community supervisor – directing them to go through the proper channels. Mr. Williams replied stating that this would be a Citizen Generated Project, and discussed the steps to complete/approve this.

Robbie Leonard reported on complaints regarding the basketball hoops at Orchard Hills Park. Mr. Williams responded stating that he was looking at this site today. He reported that they have a replacement for the broken hoop and announced that the cost for two is \$4,600. There are three other sites getting new/replacement equipment, hopefully before September, according to Property Management. Mr. Williams discussed the overall need, in the county, and discussed those communities that do not want this. Mr. Leonard went on to discuss complaints from people visiting Chesterwood Park and Merritt Point Park, claiming they are being asked to leave before dark. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Leonard if he knew who was asking folks to leave the park before dark; Mr. Leonard replied stating that he did not know. Mr. Munzert stated that it could be they were told they could not start another inning after 8:00 p.m., and therefore, the games are over before dark. Lastly, Mr. Leonard asked when Miami Beach would be open again for swimming. Mr. Williams replied stating that it would not be open again for swimming.

Mr. van den Beemt referenced the meeting with the Baltimore County Council, and the discussion about expressing dissatisfaction with Property Management. He stated that they should be made aware of the recent issues. Mr. Williams stated that the councils should report their issues to the community supervisors, to follow the proper chain of command; however, the councils can reach out to the County Council.

Old Business:

Regarding recertification, Mr. van den Beemt stated he would follow-up with Mike Milani regarding councils in his area. Board members reviewed paperwork for Greater Loch Raven, Kingsville, Reisterstown, Rosedale and Towson Recreation Councils. See item under "Action." Discussion ensued regarding those councils the board has not yet recertified. Mr. Munzert stated that the Baltimore County Sailing Center has not completed the recertification process. In addition, Mr. Munzert stated that Bengies-Chase Recreation Council has a newly elected board. They are working on recertification. Lisa Winters will update the recertification spreadsheet and send to board members.

Mr. Hiebler announced that the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum held elections and all were re-elected. Mr. Hiebler and Mr. Milani were in attendance at the last meeting, and informed the council that their by-laws had not been approved. The council disagreed. Mr. Hiebler stated that this would

have an effect on the recent election. Discussion ensued. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the by-laws have not and will not be approved until we see a change in the amount of money they are permitted to spend, from \$250 to \$100. Mr. Hiebler plans to attend their next meeting. He will email Cynthia deJesus (with a copy to Mr. van den Beemt and Ms. Winters) and inform her of the board's conversation regarding the by-laws.

New Business:

Mr. Hiebler reviewed the proposed revisions to the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council By-Laws, and discussed his concern with Article 10, Section 3, regarding the number of officers signing checks – for up to \$1,000. He stated that this amount is too high. Outside of this concern, Mr. Hiebler stated that all other proposed revisions looked fine. Mr. van den Beemt will notify the council of the board's directive to decrease the amount to \$500.

Action:

Mr. Munzert motioned to recommend that Back River Recreation Council merge with Middle River Recreation Council, and Ballestone become a separate council. (Mr. Williams stated that staff could facilitate this.) Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Board members reviewed recertification paperwork for Greater Loch Raven, Kingsville, Reisterstown, Rosedale and Towson Recreation Councils. Mr. Munzert motioned to recertify these councils; Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Hiebler moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Munzert seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters