

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, September 13, 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, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard, Chip Hiebler and Dylan Sloan. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Kara Burman, acting chief, Recreation Services and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison. Michael Ruby, Country Chronicle and Marge Neal, East County Times were also in attendance.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Janet Miller was in attendance to hear the discussion regarding Back River Recreation Council. She stated that she is in attendance at this meeting because she was not permitted to attend the recent meeting regarding the council. Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert replied stating that the meeting was not open to the public; the meeting was for executive board members and program chairpersons only. Ms. Miller stated that she is an officer of a program and regularly attended council meetings. She brought concerns before the Board of Recreation and Parks, and stated that she does not think she should be getting information second hand. In addition, Ms. Miller voiced her concerns regarding the restitution ordered to be paid back to the council. She stated that she heard there was another trial scheduled. Mr. Munzert replied stating that he already told Ms. Miller he would let her know the trial date. Discussion ensued. Mr. van den Beemt stated that restitution is still being sought; however, he does not know the status. Mr. Munzert stated that the bank account is still open, and may need to remain open, to collect restitution.

Board Member Activities:

Mr. Hiebler reported his attendance at the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum Council Meeting, and the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council Meeting. He informed board members of an issue regarding a conflicting date, stating that the anniversary of the Banneker Museum, and the Colonial Market Fair fall on the same day; Cynthia deJesus is not willing to change the date. Chris McCollum is looking into this issue. Regarding the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council, Mr. Hiebler reported that there was big discussion concerning the ultimate frisbee program, which was a program of both the Baltimore Highlands and Catonsville Recreation Councils. The program had a non-profit status, which Catonsville Recreation Council told them to dissolve. However, before the director of the program could do so, Catonsville Recreation Council threw them out. Mr. Hiebler reported that he has spoken with Director Barry F. Williams about the situation. Mr. Hiebler stated that Catonsville Recreation Council has a very large soccer program, which competes with ultimate frisbee for field space. This program is now with Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council; paperwork was received indicating the non-profit status was dissolved.

Isaac Manjoe informed board members that the Liberty Road Recreation Council elections are to take place soon. He stated that he wants to make sure all participants are represented in the election. Mr. Manjoe reported that the last council meeting was well attended.

Leslie Monfred announced that an event was held Monday evening to raise money for Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Children. The event was a success, raising a lot of money to feed children throughout the year. Ms. Monfred thanked board members for their help with this worthy cause.

Robbie Leonard told board members of his recent announcement to run for state senate.

Mr. Weir informed board members that the Region 4 President's Meeting is tomorrow evening. In addition, he thanked Mr. Munzert for all he has done.

Mr. van den Beemt reported of another volunteer with Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council, who is baulking at the background check policy. Jolie McShane has voiced her displeasure regarding the background check policy and contacted the Law Office. Mr. Williams replied stating that he has not heard anything more in the last two weeks, but stated if a volunteer is not compliant, then they will be in violation of county policy. He stated that he would follow up with the council president, as it is their responsibility to make sure volunteers are in compliance.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams announced that Beahtha Davis is no longer with the department; however, she is well placed in San Bernardino, California. He reported that he has spoken with her and she is doing well. Mr. Williams told Ms. Davis that we would assist her in any way we can. He reported that Kara Burman is the acting chief of Recreation Services, through December. This change has given Mr. Williams the opportunity to look at possibly reorganizing the department; he has currently divided up responsibilities of the chief's position: Don Kuklinski is handling Property Management and Baltimore County Public Schools, and Bob Smith is handling PAL. Mr. Williams stated that he would like to look at this and see if it makes sense in the long run.

Mr. Williams informed board members that the concrete-breaking, at Patriot Plaza, was held today. This project should be finished in late spring 2018. Brief discussion ensued.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. van den Beemt went to see Ms. Davis before she left and reported that she was very excited about her new venture. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the board recognizes her tremendous contribution. In addition, Mr. van den Beemt stated that he has worked with Ms. Burman years ago, in Hereford, and congratulated her on this role.

Old Business:

Regarding recertification, Mr. van den Beemt stated he would follow-up with Mike Milani regarding councils in his area. Lisa Winters provided an update on Catonsville Recreation Council, stating that the council recently submitted recertification paperwork (for the second time); however, one of the required forms was signed by the former council president, not the current council president. Maurice Watkins will contact the council to let them know what needs to be done. Greg Heitner informed board members that he missed the last Perry Hall Recreation Council meeting, but will follow up with the council again. Mr. Heitner reported that the White Marsh Recreation Council told him that they submitted all recertification documents; however, Ms. Winters replied stating that the council submitted the two required forms, but no tax returns. Mr. Munzert reported that the Bengies-Chase Recreation Council is planning to conduct an audit and will get the necessary information in

as soon as they can. Board members reviewed paperwork for the Baltimore County Sailing Center Council. See item under “Action.” Ms. Winters will update the recertification spreadsheet and send to board members.

At the meeting last week regarding Back River Recreation Council, Mr. Munzert explained the board’s decision, stating that it is in the best interest of the programs to join another council, and referred them to Middle River Recreation Council. Mr. Munzert stated that a representative from Middle River Recreation Council was in attendance. After further discussion, there were two programs that did not want to join Middle River Recreation Council. There are a couple of programs that Middle River Recreation Council would like to meet with, as they would like them to join with their existing program. Mr. Munzert reported on an upcoming meeting, which Middle River Recreation Council invited the program chairpersons from Back River Recreation Council, to attend. Middle River Recreation Council wants to make sure they would not be accepting any large debts from Back River Recreation Council. Mr. Munzert stated that Ballestone is a different story – the board will work with Colleen Baugher regarding the formation of a separate council. Overall, Mr. Munzert stated that the meeting went well.

At the last board meeting, Mr. Hiebler discussed his concern regarding the proposed revisions to the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council By-Laws (Article 10, Section 3, regarding the number of officers signing checks – for up to \$1,000). Mr. van den Beemt will notify the council of the board’s directive to decrease the amount to \$500.

New Business:

Mr. Munzert reported that a new board was elected for the Bengies-Chase Recreation Council. The group is doing well; however, when they looked into the financial books, they discovered that ~\$20,000 was missing. They hope to know more after the meeting, scheduled for Thursday. The State’s Attorney is involved in the investigation.

Ms. Miller requested a change to the June 14, 2017 meeting minutes, indicating that she did not make the following statement: “Ms. Miller stated that they both have the same tax ID number.” Board members agreed to strike this from the minutes. See item under “Action.”

Mr. Williams informed board members that Board of Education was placing signs at undeveloped properties that were contiguous with Recreation and Parks. He believes the intent was to make sure people were aware that a school was going to be built at the location.

Action:

Board members reviewed recertification paperwork for the Baltimore County Sailing Center Council. Mr. Weir motioned to recertify this council; Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. van den Beemt made a motion to strike the following statement from the June 14, 2017 meeting minutes: “Ms. Miller stated that they both have the same tax ID number.” Mr. Munzert seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Hiebler moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters