

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Chuck Munzert, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir and Chip Hiebler. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Kara Burman, acting chief, Recreation Services and Bob Smith, regional coordinator, Region 3.

Call to Order:

Vice chairman Chuck Munzert called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Weir motioned to approve the September board meeting minutes, Greg Heitner seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams reported on the condition of the grounds after the Watersedge Fall Festival, stating that the council will incur the cost for repair. Property Management provided an estimate; however, this was significantly high. They are working on obtaining another estimate.

Mr. Williams met with members of Ballestone and reported that the meeting went well; they are in the process of transitioning to a stand-alone council, which will fall under Agriculture, Nature & Special Facilities. The Back River Recreation Council books will remain open until Ballestone obtains their 501(c)3, which he indicated, "the sooner, the better." Mr. Williams plans to visit with members of Ballestone again to reiterate this message.

The Greenhouse Groundbreaking was held at the Ag Center on October 5. Michael Ruby wrote an article for The Villager, which Mr. Williams suggested, should be taken with a grain of salt.

Prior to her departure, Beahta Davis met with a group interested in skate parks. Kara Burman and Kris Mervine met with this group to discuss the formation of a Skate Park Council. Both were impressed with the group. Once they get everything together, the group plans to come before the Board. Mr. Williams stated that they are very well organized. Brief discussion followed. Mr. Williams reported that Baltimore County staffs their skate parks; however, many other jurisdictions do not. Mike Milani stated that he would forward Mr. Williams information from Howard County Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Williams invited all to attend FallFest on Friday, October 20. The festival is the kick-off to the county's United Way Campaign. Mr. Williams provided details and encouraged all to come out and enjoy.

Old Business:

Regarding recertification, board members reviewed paperwork for Perry Hall, White Marsh and Catonsville Recreation Councils. See item under "Action." Mr. Milani plans to review paperwork submitted by the other councils in his area. Lisa Winters will update the recertification spreadsheet and send to board members.

Mr. Munzert recently attended a meeting at the Middle River Recreation Office, with all parties interested in moving to Middle River Recreation Council. Mr. Munzert reported that all programs, with the exception of basketball, agreed to this move. All monies for each of these programs has been transferred to Middle River

Recreation Council. Discussion ensued. Mr. Munzert notified board members of the hearing regarding restitution, scheduled November 15.

At the July board meeting, Chip 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). Chairman Eric van den Beemt had planned to notify the council of the board’s directive to decrease the amount to \$500. Mr. van den Beemt is not in attendance and therefore, this item was tabled until the next board meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding background checks. Mr. Milani stated he feels strongly that a staff person should handle this.

New Business:

Mr. Weir and Mr. Hiebler reviewed the proposed revisions to the Edgemere-Sparrows Point Recreation Council By-Laws and stated that they were great. See item under “Action.”

Mr. Weir inquired about the timeframe it would take for Property Management to repair the damage at Watersedge Park, stating that other repairs have taken upwards of two years. Discussion ensued regarding the Watersedge Fall Festival. Mr. Weir stated that there were two large fights, and reported that it took police a very long time to respond. Mr. Weir stated that this is an issue. Brief discussion ensued.

Action:

Board members reviewed recertification paperwork for Perry Hall, White Marsh and Catonsville Recreation Councils. Mr. Heitner motioned to recertify these councils; Mr. Munzert seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Weir motioned to approve the proposed revisions to the Edgemere-Sparrows Point Recreation Council By-Laws. Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Weir moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters