

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2017

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

### **Call to Order:**

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert motioned to approve the November board meeting minutes, Greg Heitner seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Chip Hiebler attended the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council meeting last evening and learned that the Haunted Hallows program grossed \$17,000. On another note, Mr. Hiebler stated that he has some questions regarding Catonsville Recreation Council, and was hoping to talk with Mike Milani.

Mr. Heitner announced that he has had a number of meetings with the folks interested in forming a skate board council, further stating that this is a great group of guys that are very well organized. He requested by-laws from the group, which he then sent to Mr. Hiebler for review. There is a meeting tomorrow with this group, and both he and Director Barry F. Williams plan to attend. Mr. Hiebler questioned the age requirement cited in the by-laws; Mr. Heitner replied stating that they could discuss this at the meeting tomorrow. Kara Burman commented that one of the group's goals is to make improvements to the existing skate parks.

Isaac Manjoe told board members that he has two issues to talk to Mr. van den Beemt about, before bringing to the board.

Brian Weir discussed the situation at Cox's Point Park, stating that Property Management winterized the facilities at this site, despite being told by Recreation and Parks that the Haunted Hallows program was taking place. Mr. Weir further stated that in order to rectify the situation, Recreation and Parks had to pay to get the water turned back on. In addition, Mr. Weir discussed the North Point Government Center, stating there are many issues, including the wrestling program not being able to utilize a free room. Mr. Weir continued to express concerns about Property Management.

Mr. van den Beemt mentioned the issues he discussed at the last board meeting, regarding Oregon Ridge Nature Center, and reported that he spoke to the nature council after last month's meeting. Brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Munzert reported that he attended the court hearing regarding restitution for the theft of funds from Back River Recreation Council. Final logistics are still in process for the restitution.

### **Director's Comments:**

Mr. Williams informed board members that the meeting with the skate board group is tomorrow at 3:00 PM. He stated he thinks the age qualification is because they want to have areas where they can skate, without supervision. Mr. Williams stated that he believes this would operate similar to the dog parks, where a code is used to enter.

Mr. Williams announced that this is Ms. Burman's last meeting as acting chief; she will return to Region 1, sometime towards the end of December. Interviews for this position have been conducted and we are waiting to hear from Human Resources. Brief discussion ensued.

Regarding Pickleball, Mr. Williams reported that he is proposing to have 59 courts throughout the county, with a couple of courts located indoors. In addition, the senior centers have shown interest. Mr. Williams stated that a couple of the centers, which are shared with Recreation and Parks, would acquire these courts.

### **Old Business:**

Mr. Williams informed board members that Mike Schneider contacted SSCI regarding background check reminders. Mr. Schneider stated that they discussed the possibility of an email reminder; however, SSCI said that this is not a required field, and would be very cumbersome. SSCI could generate paperwork every month, for each council, but the council would then be responsible for reviewing the paperwork to see which volunteers are due to complete their background check. Discussion ensued. Mr. Williams suggested finding out what could be done without additional cost, and discuss with the councils. He asked Mr. Schneider to gather more information and discuss at the next board meeting, to see if it makes sense to move forward. Mr. van den Beemt agreed and asked board members to discuss with the councils at their monthly meetings.

### **New Business:**

Mr. Munzert reported about turf fields at Eastern Regional Park. He stated that Athan Sunderland, of Pinkard Properties, headed a project at Route 43, which ended up falling through. However, Mr. Sunderland kept his funds, originally allocated for the project. He then met with several recreation councils and civic associations in the area, and was able to get their buy-in for four new turf fields at Eastern Regional Park. Mr. Munzert was told that funding for the project has already been approved/allocated by the Baltimore County Council, and the project is now in the hands of Fred Homan. Mr. Williams has no information on this project; the only information he has received has come from Mr. Munzert. Lengthy discussion ensued. Board members had many questions and concerns about this project. Mr. van den Beemt encouraged board members to contact their representative to discuss, focusing on the following: Baltimore County entered into a contract with Pinkard, fields will not be controlled by Recreation and Parks, and the County is paying for this project.

Regarding special sponsored programs, Mr. Manjoe stated that he had a conversation with Leon Gibson, and has issues with partnering for money. Mr. Williams stated that the group approached the YMCA for use of space, but wanted use during community time, and did not want to pay. The group then contacted the council. Mr. Heitner stated that this is a similar concept to club teams partnering with a council, having the council secure fields on their behalf. Discussion ensued. Mr. Manjoe plans to attend the next council meeting, to discuss the board's concerns, and will look into this further.

### **Action:**

Mr. Hiebler motioned to approve the proposed revisions to the Kingsville Recreation Council By-Laws. Mr. Heitner seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Heitner moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters