

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 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, Leslie Monfred, Isaac Manjoe, Greg Heitner, Skip Hammond, Robbie Leonard and Dylan Sloan. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bob Smith, chief, Recreation Services.

Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Director Barry F. Williams introduced Skip Hammond as the new 7th Councilmanic District Representative. Board members introduced themselves and welcomed Mr. Hammond to the Board.

Board Member Activities:

Mike Milani reported that all is well. CCBC – Catonsville has a new turf field, and they are trying to work out usage.

Robbie Leonard informed board members that he recently met someone from the agricultural community who wanted to express their discontent. He suggested they put their concerns in writing. This individual is planning to let things go until after the next election.

Isaac Manjoe announced that the Liberty Road Recreation Council accepted the board's feedback regarding special sponsored programs (discussed last month). Mr. Manjoe told the Council that the Board was not in agreement, but it is ultimately their decision.

Mr. Hammond informed the Board of the request by the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council, to move the wrestling program to the cafeteria. There are over 85 participants in the program, and being familiar with the space currently utilized, Mr. Hammond stated there is not enough room. He inquired as to how the Council should move forward with this. The County will not incur any additional costs, and volunteers are willing to clean up the area and block the program off from the rest of the building. Brief discussion ensued.

Greg Heitner told board members that he received over 50 calls regarding Eastern Regional Park, with a number of them coming from council presidents and program directors. This has blown up because no one actually knows what is going on. Mr. Heitner stated that there is lots of concern from the community to which, he has suggested they contact Councilman Marks. On another note, the community is waiting for a turf field at Perry Hall HS, and Mr. Heitner inquired about the status. Mr. Williams replied stating that he knows this will happen; however, all projects like this are handled by Property Management. He will try to find out more information.

Leslie Monfred referenced the backpack program she is involved with, which assists children in need in Baltimore City. However, Ms. Monfred stated that there are 900 children at Parkville HS in severe need. She stated that clearly there is a strong need for assistance in Baltimore County as well. She has a meeting scheduled with Laurie Taylor Mitchell, in an effort to figure out how to serve these needs.

Mr. Munzert reported that the sign at Bengies-Chase is *still* laying on the ground. Bob Smith replied stating he would check the project list.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Manjoe motioned to approve the December board meeting minutes, Mr. Heitner seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams introduced Mr. Smith as the new chief of Recreation Services. All welcomed Mr. Smith.

Old Business:

Regarding restitution to Middle River Recreation Council (Back River), Mr. Munzert stated that the person paying is no longer employed. If he does not pay, the council will have to go back to court.

New Business:

Mr. Munzert and Mr. Heitner reported on the turf field project at Eastern Regional Park. When approached about this project, Essex-Stembridge Recreation Council was not in agreement; Overlea-Fullerton was then approached, and agreed. The president of Essex-Stembridge Recreation Council was informed, by Brian Weir, that if the council should want to use this site, as they have in the past, they would now have to pay \$150 per hour. The council president got very upset about this. It was stated that the County would pay \$1.75 million, and Pinkard Properties would pay \$1.75 million, to install four turf fields. However, Pinkard Properties would have control of these fields. Mr. Heitner and Mr. Milani both stated that it would appear that the County is basically giving away a regional park for \$1.75 million. Mr. Williams stated that he met with Don Mohler and Bryan Sheppard and informed them that there are others that use this site, besides those identified as primary users. Lengthy discussion ensued. At the last meeting, board members were encouraged to discuss this with their Baltimore County Council Member. In addition, Mr. Heitner suggested they discuss this with all running for office, and inquire about where they stand regarding this project.

Prior to appointing a Nominating Committee, Mr. Munzert suggested they look into term limits of officers.

Mr. Heitner informed board members that he and Mr. Williams had a great meeting with the folks interested in forming a skate board council. The group is very well organized. Mr. Heitner was invited to attend their first annual meeting. In addition, they drafted by-laws, and want to meet with Ed Beranek to discuss best practices to ensure they start off with all the right things in place.

Mr. Williams updated board members regarding pickleball courts, stating that they are adding one court to District 4 and District 6 (in addition to the 59 others). Mr. Williams thought it would be best to make sure all districts have at least one court.

Ms. Monfred extended a huge heartfelt “Thank You” to Mr. Weir for his dedication to Recreation and Parks. Mr. Weir did so much good throughout the years, Ms. Monfred wanted to recognize the effort he made helping the community. The board was unanimous in supporting her recognition of Mr. Weir.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Munzert moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters