

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Thursday, February 15, 2018, 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 Mike Milani, Isaac Manjoe, Greg Heitner, Skip Hammond, John Hawks and Dylan Sloan. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Bob Smith, 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 6:03 p.m. At this time, Mr. van den Beemt apologized for missing the meeting last month.

Mr. van den Beemt introduced John Hawks as the new At-Large Member. Board members welcomed Mr. Hawks.

Board Member Activities:

Mr. van den Beemt reported that he continues to have conversation with members of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council. He informed board members that a bid, in the amount of \$7,700, recently came in from Property Management, for modifications to the library. Brief discussion ensued.

Mike Milani told those in attendance that he was asked about getting squash courts at Northeast Regional Recreation Center (NERRC). Brief discussion ensued. Director Barry F. Williams replied directing them to contact Shawn Sprole. Regarding NERRC, Mr. Williams reported that funding for a turf field is in the 2018/2019 budget. Discussion ensued regarding the Baltimore Blast, which practices at this site.

Approval of Minutes:

Greg Heitner motioned to approve the January board meeting minutes, vice chairman Chuck Munzert seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams informed board members that the pickleball project has expanded to 73 courts, which includes four indoor courts. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Williams announced that both he and Bob Smith are heavily involved with obtaining modifications at Eastern Regional Park, including de-lipping this spring.

Mr. Williams reported that the tree painting at Oregon Ridge Park, although nice, will not happen again at this site.

Old Business:

Regarding turf fields at Eastern Regional Park, Mr. Williams reported that this is a dead issue and can be removed from the agenda.

Mr. Munzert spoke about the restitution to Back River Recreation Council, reporting that no money has been paid. The probation officer submitted paperwork, and the offender will likely end up back in jail.

Mr. Heitner reported on the group in the process of forming a skate board council, stating that they are unbelievable. The group is on top of everything; they applied for a 501(c)(3), they are incorporated, have funding and a meeting location. Mr. Heitner stated that this is really a great group.

New Business:

Mr. van den Beemt informed board members of the appeal request from Julia Myers, regarding her dismissal from Bengies-Chase Recreation Council. Discussion ensued and board members voted not to hear the appeal. See item under "Action."

Mr. Munzert discussed the issues surrounding the basketball court at Hawthorne Park, stating there have been over 300 calls to the police. The civic association and residents want the basketball rims taken down. Mr. Munzert stated that this court needs to be shut down. In addition, Mr. Munzert referenced a wall at this site that hides the activity taking place. He discussed the possibility of taking this wall down as well.

Regarding board elections, Mr. van den Beemt discussed the formation of a nominating committee, appointing Isaac Manjoe and Mr. Milani. He reminded all that he cannot serve again as chair. The nominating committee presented their nominations. See item under "Action."

Marshy Point Nature Council submitted proposed revisions to their constitution and by-laws, for board approval. Mr. van den Beemt read Chip Hiebler's email [to those in attendance] regarding the revisions, which stated that he reviewed the revisions and had no issues. See item under "Action."

Board members discussed best practices, focusing on family members serving, simultaneously, on the executive board, and term limits for executive board members. Mr. Heitner suggested creating a best practices document that councils would include in their by-laws. Skip Hammond inquired about whether anything was given to each council on how chair persons are to operate. Mr. van den Beemt replied stating that the board conducts a bi-annual recertification and references best practices. Mr. Hammond stated that Edgemere-Sparrows Point Recreation Council has a two page document outlining standard operating procedures/best practices. He stated that this would be very helpful for all councils to have, and suggested collecting this from those councils that currently have something in writing, reviewing this information and coming up with something to be distributed to each council. Board members can collect this information from those councils in their area. Mr. van den Beemt inquired about the next round of presidents meetings, stating that the board has several items to discuss. Mr. van den Beemt asked all board members to come to the next meeting, prepared to discuss standard operating procedures and what to include. Mr. Manjoe volunteered to conduct a presentation on insurance coverage, including what this covers and why the executive board should have this.

Mr. van den Beemt discussed the upcoming meeting with the Baltimore County Council, and what board members wished to discuss. Items included turf field projects, concussions, issues regarding Property Management, and background checks. Mr. Milani volunteered to take the lead on the background check discussion. Further discussion ensued, including the importance of communicating issues.

Action:

Mr. Heitner motioned the board not hear the appeal requested by Julia Myers, Mr. Milani seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Manjoe nominated Mr. Munzert to serve as chairman of the board, and Mr. Heitner to serve as vice chairman, with no other nominations on the floor. He made a motion to close the nominations, Mr. Milani seconded and all were in favor. Results of the election take place immediately.

Mr. Heitner motioned to approve the proposed revisions to the Marshy Point Nature Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Munzert seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Munzert moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters