

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Chuck Munzert, chairman; board members Leslie Monfred, Isaac Manjoe, Eric van den Beemt, Skip Hammond and Chip Hiebler. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bob Smith, chief, Recreation Services.

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Chuck Munzert called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. At this time, Mr. Munzert informed board members that Kimberly Mcie was in attendance, to address the board, regarding an issue that occurred with the Gray Charles Recreation Council. See item under "Comments by Individual Citizens."

### **Comments by Individual Citizens:**

Ms. Mcie and husband Dallas Mcie introduced themselves to those in attendance. Ms. Mcie, former chair of the Gray Charles Recreation Council cheer program, began by informing board members that council president Charles Parrish has accused her of stealing money [\$3,141.48] from the program. Ms. Mcie stated she has been requesting to be heard since January, and was led here by Mr. Munzert. Ms. Mcie went on to state that she has been suspended for 5 years. Mr. Parrish sent a long email to this regard, which Ms. Mcie said had many discrepancies. Ms. Mcie stated that she did not handle the money alone; team moms collected money, turned it over to her, and she turned it over to the treasurer. In addition, the team moms handled the financial sheets and fundraising. Ms. Mcie went on to explain program expenditures, and fundraising discrepancies and disbursements. Ms. Mcie reported that Mr. Parrish told her that this matter was turned over to the Office of the State's Attorney.

Mr. Mcie informed board members that at previous meetings, Mr. Parrish stated that this was not a money issue; he was asking Ms. Mcie to step down because she was not running the program correctly, and she was overwhelmed. Mr. Mcie reported that Ms. Mcie has been doing this for years and has never had an issue. Mr. Mcie reported that Mr. Parrish is now saying that this is a money issue - theft.

Ms. Mcie stated that she requested for someone, other than Mr. Parrish, to conduct an audit, and allow her to explain; however, she was denied. Ms. Mcie stated that she believes this is personal, stating that Mr. Parrish has had an issue with her since October. If there was a concern, Ms. Mcie questioned why Mr. Parrish would wait until January to address. Mr. Mcie stated that he was involved with the softball program; however, he could see how things were going, so he stepped down. Skip Hammond replied stating that the board needs to wait for the recreation council to decide what they are doing, before they can investigate/take action. Mr. Mcie stated that Mr. Parrish has done what it is he wanted to do, which was ruin Ms. Mcie. Mr. Hammond stated that everything starts and ends with the program chair. Mr. Mcie stated that Ms. Mcie was never given an opportunity to answer questions - she should have that right. Board members thanked Mr. & Ms. Mcie for coming, and further discussion ensued once they left.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Mr. Hammond distributed program information to all, regarding Higher Ground, which is presented by the Edgemere-Sparrows Point Recreation Council. These summer academic courses are held at Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School and are open to all elementary school students. Mr. Hammond stated that this is a fine example of the recreation council and school coming together for the community. He believes the two entities should work together, versus against one another. Chip Hiebler commented on Higher Ground, stating that it is fantastic!

Mr. Hiebler reported that Catonsville Recreation Council scheduled a meeting with all of the basketball programs, to discuss putting them under one umbrella, similar to soccer. He will report on this at the next meeting.

Isaac Manjoe stated that he plans to attend the Liberty Road Recreation Council meeting and will provide an update at the next board meeting.

Eric van den Beemt encouraged all board members to attend the upcoming President's Meetings, and discuss the various issues they have been talking about.

Leslie Monfred reported on the huge drive, organized by Laurie Taylor-Mitchell, at Loch Raven and Parkville High Schools. Ms. Monfred stated that this was very successful. She reported that they are looking to expand to other Baltimore County schools. Mr. Hiebler replied stating that Region 1 could use this assistance, and suggested discussing this at the President's Meetings.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. van den Beemt motioned to approve the April board meeting minutes, Mr. Hiebler seconded, and all were in favor.

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

Director Barry F. Williams announced that Shawn Spole is now regional coordinator for Region 3, and Maria Bieneman has been selected to fill Mr. Spole's former position of community supervisor for regional facilities. Mr. Williams stated that he is pleased.

Mr. Williams invited board members to attend the press conference, tomorrow at 11:30 a.m., for Produce for the People. This will be held at the Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park (Ag Center). Mr. Williams stated that if anyone has not been to this site, they should go. All food collected will go to the Maryland Food Bank. Mr. Williams will emcee the event.

Regarding the Ag Center, Mr. Williams reported on the partnership with the Saratoga WarHorse Foundation, which will utilize the equine arena on site. The foundation helps veterans overcome PTSD, while working with horses. The county will be getting some race horses from Kevin Plank, in addition to the 4-5 horses they just acquired.

### **Old Business:**

Mr. Munzert discussed the recent hearing regarding Bengies-Chase Recreation Council. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Munzert for providing continuous follow-up. Board members went on to discuss the meeting that was held with recreation/nature councils, which Adam Lippe attended. Mr. Hammond stated that Mr. Lippe did an excellent job, and asked if this could be done again. Mr. Williams replied stating that the department could

contact Mr. Lippe, and secure a meeting location; board members can work on discussion items. The following should be added to next month's agenda: Meeting with State's Attorney – Items for Discussion.

**New Business:**

Mr. Hammond referenced the situation with the cheer program at Gray Charles Recreation Council, stating that this goes back to his discussions regarding standard operating procedures and best practices. In addition, he briefly discussed the culmination of the council's current executive board, and stated that nobody is planning to step up and fill the vacancies. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Hammond stated that having served on a recreation council executive board for 10 years, prior to his appointment to the Board of Recreation and Parks, he believes he has the knowledge of what councils go through on a regular basis. With that said, Mr. Hammond stated that he would take what he has collected from various councils, and compile into a best practices/standard operating procedure document, to share with the board.

Regarding the Owings Mills Recreation Council, Bob Smith informed board members that staff were investigating concerns surrounding the basketball program. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that the department plans to turn concerns over to Mr. Lippe.

Mr. Williams reported on the two recent meetings with council presidents, stating that they both went well. Thus far, they met with Region 4 and Agriculture, Nature & Special Facilities.

Ms. Monfred questioned the status of the reminder for background checks. She said that many have asked her about this. In addition, she discussed revisiting the criteria. Brief discussion ensued regarding background checks and the appeal process.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. van den Beemt moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters