

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Greg Heitner, vice chairman; board members Isaac Manjoe, Eric van den Beemt, Robbie Leonard, John Hawks, Chip Hiebler 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:**

Vice Chairman Greg Heitner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Eric van den Beemt reported that he received a call from the chairperson of the field hockey program at Towsontowne Recreation Council. She wanted to discuss field allocations, stating that fields are provided to other programs of the council, first, and then to field hockey. She wanted to know how this process works. Bob Smith stated that as long as the council is following policy for in season sports, the remaining allocations can be left up to the council. Mr. van den Beemt replied stating that this process should be reasonable and fair to all programs.

Robbie Leonard inquired about updates regarding the Maryland State Fairgrounds and Huntley Sports Group (formerly Pinkard Properties). Director Barry F. Williams replied stating he was aware that the two groups had been talking. Mr. Leonard stated that Huntley Sports Group was holding meet and greets, and that Athan Sunderland was discussing the groups' plans and benefits. Mr. Williams stated that this is not county property. Discussion ensued.

Chip Hiebler reported on the meeting Catonsville Recreation Council held with all of the basketball programs, to discuss putting them under one umbrella, similar to soccer. The meeting got contentious amongst program directors; however, Mr. Hiebler stated that the council president is adamant that she will make this happen. In addition, Mr. Hiebler informed board members that the council has a new AAU team. On another note, Mr. Hiebler stated that Baltimore-Highlands Recreation Council is doing great! They recently held a fishing rodeo with approximately 40 children in attendance.

Isaac Manjoe stated that he attended the Liberty Road Recreation Council meeting and discussed standard operating procedures (SOP). He encouraged the council to work on this. He told them that the Board of Recreation and Parks is working on SOP/best practices and plans to reach out to all councils. In addition, Mr. Manjoe reported that he spoke with the council about those running for county executive. He encouraged the group to discuss Recreation and Parks with these candidates.

Mr. Heitner reported on Angel Park, stating that there has been some amazing concerts. He further commented on the many other wonderful things taking place at the park. In addition, Mr. Heitner stated that the library [which is located next to the park] has seen participation skyrocket! Overall, Mr. Heitner stated that he thinks this is a model that could be used in other parts of the county. He encouraged all to visit this park.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

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

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

Mr. Williams stated that it behooves folks to visit Angel Park. He further stated that this could be replicated in other parts of the county. Mr. Heitner suggested holding a board meeting in the area, starting with a tour of Angel Park, and then heading over to Honeygo Run Regional Park for the meeting. Brief discussion ensued regarding Angel Park.

Mr. Williams reported that at each President's Meeting, he discussed the forum that Mr. van den Beemt held with those running for county executive. He informed them of its success, and stated that it put all candidates on the spot to discuss their plans/thoughts regarding recreation. During the forum, those in attendance suggested the candidates make recreation part of their platform.

Regarding the President's Meetings, Mr. Williams reported that all in attendance seemed to be pleased with Recreation and Parks' customer service. There was discussion about having a maintenance group within Recreation and Parks that could take care of things when needed. Mr. van den Beemt commented that the tone of these meetings has changed.

At the last meeting, Mr. Williams invited board members to attend a press conference (scheduled for the following day) for Produce for the People, in which, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz was to attend. Mr. Williams reported that he received a call from his sister, early that morning, informing him of the sudden passing of County Executive Kevin Kamenetz. Mr. Williams stated that this was a shock, and very sad; this has impacted all throughout the county. Mr. Williams reported that Don Mohler [chief of staff to County Executive Kevin Kamenetz] was selected as County Executive, to finish the remaining term. Mr. Williams described County Executive Don Mohler as a good guy that came from an educational background. Mr. Williams reported that the press conference will be rescheduled for August or September. Board members will be notified once a new date has been selected.

Mr. Williams announced that he will be on Hello Baltimore County, taping his interview on June 29. This interview will also be on the county web site.

### **Old Business:**

Regarding standard operating procedures for recreation/nature councils, Skip Hammond had stated at a previous meeting that he planned to take what he has collected from various councils, and compile into a best practices/standard operating procedure document, to share with the board. Mr. Hammond is not in attendance; therefore, this item was tabled until the next meeting.

In Chairman Chuck Munzert's absence, Mr. Smith reported on the situation regarding Bengies-Chase Recreation Council. He spoke with Adam Lippe who informed him that a check was given to Mr. Munzert, to deliver to the council.

### **New Business:**

There was nothing to report regarding Gray Charles Recreation Council and Kimberly Mcie.

Regarding the Owings Mills Recreation Council, Mr. Smith informed board members that staff had investigated concerns surrounding the basketball program. These concerns were turned over to Mr. Lippe.

Mr. Hiebler reported on the proposed revisions to the Owings Mills Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, pointing out two items of concern. Article VII, Section 1 states, "Any and all funds acquired by any group, identified with the Council shall become the property of the Council's Treasurer." Mr. Hiebler stated that "Treasurer" must be changed to "Treasury." Article VII, Section 2 states, "The checking account shall be established in the following manner: All checks must be authorized and signed by the President or Treasurer." Mr. Hiebler stated that "President or Treasurer" must be changed to "President or Treasurer and one other Board member." Board members were in agreement and Mr. Hiebler stated that he would pass this information along to Leslie Monfred so she could relay this to the council.

Mr. Williams stated that board members were planning to come up with discussion items for a meeting with the State's Attorney. He asked board members to submit these items to Lisa Winters, within a week, so they can be forwarded to Mr. Lippe. Mr. Williams stated that they are looking at holding this meeting in the fall. Mr. van den Beemt stated that Mr. Lippe's past presentation was excellent; he could do this again and then open the floor for questions.

Mr. Leonard reported on a remark that has been frequently stated by a team running for office. This team is saying that you can't go into a park without seeing a hypodermic needle, and Mr. Leonard asked those in attendance if they have heard (or seen) anything similar. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that this is likely said to strike fear amongst the public.

Mr. Heitner inquired about the bridge in Perry Hall that was suggested to be named after Police Officer First Class Amy Sorrells Caprio, who was killed in the line-of-duty. Mr. Williams responded stating that he reached out to County Executive Don Mohler and Councilman David Marks, and was told that they are receiving a lot of requests; they want to make sure this is in line with what the family wants. Mr. Heitner stated that Officer Caprio and her husband were trail riders and dog walkers, and enjoyed Honeygo Run Regional Park.

### **Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters