

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

CHUCK MUNZERT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at Department Headquarters, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Chuck Munzert, chairman; board members Mike Milani, Eric van den Beemt, Isaac Manjoe, Robbie Leonard, Chip Hiebler and Dylan Sloan. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bob Smith, chief, Recreation Services. Michael Ruby from the Country Chronicle was also in attendance.

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Chuck Munzert called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Robbie Leonard reported that the tennis group is not happy about badminton, and the decision made at the last board meeting. Eric van den Beemt asked how much time the badminton group is assigned at Northeast Regional Recreation Center (NERRC). Bob Smith replied, stating that the tennis group has ~80% of the available time at NERRC. Brief discussion ensued.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

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

### **Chairman's Report:**

Mr. Munzert commented on the recent meeting with Assistant State's Attorney Adam Lippe, stating that he thought it was very good. He has since attended two recreation council meetings, and in both cases, information from this meeting was discussed. Mike Milani stated that he thought Mr. Lippe did a great job; board members agreed. Lisa Winters will look over sign in sheets to see which councils were represented.

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

Director Barry F. Williams announced that he was reappointed; he goes before the Baltimore County Council Monday evening. He went on to tell board members of the Department Head meeting he recently attended, stating that this was the best meeting with County Executive that he has had in 16 years. Mr. Williams further stated that he is optimistic about the new administration. He is compiling a list of goals, which he will submit to the administration today.

Mr. Williams reported that he is assessing all councilmanic districts to see who has what, and will then create a list, in priority order. He stated that he does not believe all have always received in the same way, and is focusing on equity. He is also looking at other property that could be turned into parks/facilities. Mr. Williams

referenced pocket parks and stated that he would like to see more of these throughout the county; these passive areas encourage people to come out.

Mr. Williams commented that he went into his list of goals thinking about what the needs are, and then plans to go from there. He told board members that he asked, very directly, about getting maintenance returned. The department had 120 maintenance staff and lost all to Property Management. Mr. Williams stated that some things worked out under Property Management; however, many did not. The County Executive has been supportive of this. Mr. Williams stated that this would go a long way with all of the councils, and he would really like to restore maintenance. In addition, Mr. Williams discussed bringing back the CAMP agreement, stating that we were not allowed to do this under Property Management. There are people who have the skill set and know how to do things. With that said, there would be a training component to go along with the CAMP agreement.

Mr. Williams briefly discussed the need for a conference center in Baltimore County, and stated that this is an idea of some of what he is submitting. In addition, Mr. Williams stated that he is not immune to the many issues that have gone on at the Ag Center and stated that he plans to re-define the function of this site.

Mr. van den Beemt asked how Baltimore County compares to other counties, regarding the amount of money allocated to Recreation and Parks. Mr. Milani replied, referencing the difference in the makeup of Baltimore County, versus other counties in Maryland. Mr. Smith reported that the department receives significantly less than other counties. Discussion ensued. Mr. Leonard commented that everything he has read has been that the county is doom and gloom fiscally, and asked if Mr. Williams thinks more money will be coming his way. Mr. Williams replied, stating that he thinks you need the desire to support Recreation and Parks, and we have this.

Mr. Hiebler inquired about where the background checks fall. Mr. Williams replied, stating that this was not discussed; however, he believes the department has been given the go ahead to take action/run the department. Mr. Milani replied, stating that as he has said in the past, this is not something that should fall on the volunteers, but rather department paid staff. However, he does not expect the department to handle this without additional staffing.

### **Old Business:**

Standard operating procedures for recreation/nature councils was not discussed in length, as Skip Hammond was not in attendance. However, Mr. Hiebler reported that he has been looking at this and compiling best practices. He stated that he would like to work on this with Mr. Hammond.

Regarding Bengies-Chase Recreation Council concerns, Mr. Munzert stated that he thinks Mr. Lippe is going to meet with them.

Mr. Smith reported that the Owings Mills Recreation Council concerns are with Mr. Lippe.

Regarding Liberty Road travel basketball, Mr. Smith stated that the council is preparing for an audit. Mr. Hiebler reported that the council is currently vetting an accountant; the current accountant does not want to handle this since he has been doing this for past years. They are planning to audit the entire council, not just the travel basketball programs. Isaac Manjoe stated that the council must identify the type of audit they are seeking, and then prepare an engagement letter, for both the council and auditor to sign.

Brief discussion ensued regarding placing the MERC proposal on the agenda next month. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he would like to talk to Mr. Williams to see if there could be some sort of agreement/compromise reached for the two groups, and presented at the next meeting. Brief discussion ensued.

**New Business:**

Board members discussed adding to recertification, the strong recommendation of getting the treasurers bonded. Discussion ensued. See item under "Action." Mr. Munzert stated that recertification information would be sent to council presidents in January, with a due date of March 31, 2019.

**Action:**

Mr. van den Beemt motioned to add the following sentence to the recertification documents: The Board strongly recommends that those with check writing capabilities or authority be bonded for average amount of the council's monthly bank statement. Mr. Hiebler seconded this motion and all were in favor.

**Comments by Individual Citizens:**

Dan Flanigan and Bob Battista, from the Baltimore County Sailing Center Council, came before the board. Mr. Flanigan provided an overview of the council. He stated that they currently have two operational issues, and are seeking assistance. The council has liability coverage through the county, which covers program participants. However, the council is unable to secure property insurance because there is not a lease. As a result, their equipment is not insured. The second issue is a safety concern. Mr. Flanigan stated that they are in need of a safe, secure location, and better access to Rocky Point Park, during program hours. Mr. Flanigan stated that the use of a pavilion would assist in multiple ways. Mr. Flanigan is seeking assistance in obtaining a lease, and use of a pavilion at Rocky Point Park. The council currently has an existing lease of the Point House. Mr. Flanigan stated that this could be an addendum to the existing lease. Mr. Williams replied, asking Mr. Flanigan to send him words to the addendum that they would like on the lease, and he can run this through for review. Mr. Flanigan stated that they would like exclusive use of the pavilion during the week, primarily, during camp hours. This would ensure protection from thunderstorms, etc. Mr. Williams replied, stating that the better thing would be to have a dedicated new pavilion for them. Mr. Williams stated that he would investigate the usage of the pavilion (looking back at the last three years). He thanked them for coming and said the department would look into this.

**Adjournment:**

All thanked Mr. Leonard for his time served on the board, and congratulated him on his new title as Secretary of Maryland Democratic Party. Mr. Leonard thanked the members of the board, and Mr. Williams wished him all the best.

There being no further business, Mr. Hiebler moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Milani seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters