

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 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, Leslie Monfred, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler, Robbie Leonard and Alexis Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services, Chris McCollum, executive director, Agriculture, Nature & Special Facilities, Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison, Kara Burman, regional coordinator, Region 1 and Bob Smith, community supervisor, Greater Pikesville.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Weir motioned to approve the July board meeting minutes, Chip Hiebler seconded, and all were in favor.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Leslie Monfred introduced Brian Friedlander, president, Greater Pikesville Recreation Council. Mr. Friedlander came before the board to discuss an issue the council recently encountered. Mr. Friedlander began by discussing various projects the council is working on. He reported that he began receiving emails from Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) regarding fees associated with these projects, which the council is responsible for paying. The council now has several projects currently on hold. Beahta Davis replied stating that donors giving money for capital projects must include the cost for design (planning and construction); this is an existing rule. Director Barry F. Williams advised Mr. Friedlander to speak with Debbie Phelps regarding a way to run the money through the BCPS Education Foundation, instead of an outside entity. Mr. Friedlander replied stating that the council was not responsible for these costs in the past; the council could simply make a donation. Discussion ensued regarding making sure the funds are directed properly. Mr. Friedlander discussed the tension surrounding the Joint Use Agreement and the sharing of facilities between BCPS and Recreation and Parks. He stated that recreation should have equal rights; these are the same children. Mr. Williams encouraged Mr. Friedlander to speak with Bob Smith regarding issues with the schools. Mr. Friedlander praised Mr. Smith and the job he has done. He further stated that he is concerned about what other rules are out there that are not being enforced, but could be some day. Ms. Davis informed Mr. Friedlander that the council could get services donated and provided him with a list of contractors. She further stated that Recreation and Parks had a maintenance division that used to handle this in the past; however, policies have changed and the department no longer has this division. Mrs. Monfred replied stating that she does

not want councils discouraged from making donations. Mr. van den Beemt inquired about whether anyone in the County would be interested in working to make this easier for the councils. Mr. Williams replied stating that he does not see this changing any time soon as it is BCPS policy.

Board Member Activities:

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert reported that Bengies-Chase Recreation Council would like to purchase a new sign; however, the last time the council wanted to do this, the sign did not match County specifications. Ms. Davis referenced the signs at Indian Rock Trail and Soukup Arena and stated that the council would need to complete a Citizens Generated Project if they plan to pay for the sign.

Regarding the football league at Catonsville Recreation Council, Mike Milani announced that the background checks seem to be going well.

Mr. Weir announced that Rose Zaicko, president, Colgate Recreation Council is having custodial issues again. Ms. Davis replied stating that Don Kuklinski and Matt Frosolone plan to meet with the principal. In addition, Mr. Weir reported the correct spelling of Nozeika, as it was misspelled on the agenda.

Director's Comments:

Regarding the Eastfield Community Center start date of September 21, Mr. Williams announced that he recently learned that this date is fluid.

Old Business:

Mr. Munzert discussed Back River Recreation Council with regard to the financial review. He stated that they have not made progress. They do not have a board, did not do their by-laws and are not having two people sign off on all checks. Mr. Munzert briefly discussed the court case, emphasizing the lack of information. Both he and Mr. Weir plan to attend the next meeting, scheduled for September 16. They will inform the council as to what needs to happen – prior to March 1. Ms. Davis announced that the next meeting of the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council is scheduled for September 15. She informed board members that Fritz Fertig is acting while Roxy Stumpf is out on leave. Both she and Mr. Fertig will be at this meeting.

Greg Heitner reported that the Facebook group has not taken off very well. Numerous emails have been sent, which has resulted in 23 responses to send in their names; however, only 12 members have joined. In addition, nobody has posted anything. Discussion ensued. Mr. Heitner plans to make a recommendation at the next board meeting – how to improve the use of social media or to shut it down. In addition, Mr. Heitner will post on the Facebook page, stating that the board is evaluating on whether or not to continue this site. Discussion ensued regarding engaging the group and looking for feedback.

New Business:

Chris McCollum, executive director, Agriculture, Nature & Special Facilities addressed the board regarding a requested appeal. In summary, Judy Condliffe's actions have resulted in a lifetime ban from Paw Point, the dog park located at Robert E. Lee Park. Ms. Condliffe has appealed this

decision to the Nature Council; however, this decision was not overturned. She is now requesting to appeal to the Board of Recreation and Parks. Discussion ensued. See motion under "Action."

Regarding the revisions to the Liberty Road Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Munzert reported that Isaac Manjoe was working with the council.

The revised constitution and by-laws of the Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council were sent to the board prior to the meeting. See motion under "Action."

Mr. van den Beemt announced that he did not meet with the Board of Education regarding the Joint Use Agreement; however, based on correspondence, he believes they will support us if we have any issues. He stated that it is clear they want to support the Joint Use Agreement.

Regarding the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council, Ms. Davis discussed the instruction given to them about following their by-laws, which have been violated in the past. She discussed programs taking their money with them when they left the council and stated that one of these programs came back. In addition, the council will have a new karate program and a new crafts program; they will have more than just football.

Mr. Weir plans to attend the next Back River Recreation Council meeting and stated he would go from there.

Mr. van den Beemt asked board members if they have all completed their background check. All in attendance replied that they have done so. Those who have passed the background check will be listed on the web site. This process is very simple and non-invasive. Councils are going through different processes to ensure all volunteers have complied. Board members briefly discussed the email thread that took place last week. Mr. van den Beemt inquired about what would happen with those who refuse to comply. Discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that for the most part everyone is falling in line with this.

As for plans to honor Bob Nozeika and Howard Dunn, Ms. Davis reported that she has not received information regarding testing done at this site. She is waiting for this information. Mr. Williams replied stating that the naming is not an issue.

Mr. Manjoe is reviewing the proposed revisions to the Parkville Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws.

Action:

Mr. Milani motioned not to hear the appeal from Judy Condliffe regarding her lifetime ban from Paw Point, Mr. Munzert seconded the motion, and all were in favor with the exception of Mrs. Monfred.

Mr. Munzert motioned to approve the revisions made to the Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Milani seconded and all were in favor.

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 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter