

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, November 18, 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 Leslie Monfred, Isaac Manjoe, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard, Chip Hiebler and Alexis Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Board Member Activities:

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert attended a meeting regarding the new facility on Route 43 and stated that he has been getting questions regarding the use of Eastern Regional Park (ERP).

Lexi Lieberman commented that she learned a lot at the president's meeting and was glad she attended.

Isaac Manjoe stated that he found the president's meetings to be very educational and thought they went well.

Brian Weir reported that he attended several meetings, including the president's meetings and the meeting regarding the Route 43 project, and stated that Dundalk United was coming out against this project.

Leslie Monfred attended several president's meetings and stated that she found them to be very informative. In addition, she announced that she was contacted by Drew Fiddler and Adam Rosenberg who are interested in attending the next board meeting to discuss child abuse and the recreation/nature councils. They would be willing to assist with items such as written policies and talking to the councils.

Mr. van den Beemt discussed background checks and stated that the president is the one who influences whether or not the full council adheres to this policy. Board members will further discuss this later in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Robbie Leonard motioned to approve the September and October board meeting minutes, Mr. Munzert seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams stated that he enjoyed the exchange at the president's meetings and likes hearing where people are.

Regarding the Route 43 project, Mr. Williams stated that he is very pleased that Athan Sunderland is going out to talk to all councils that would be affected by this. In addition, Mr. Williams reported that instead of the

original proposal (Pinkard to purchase the property on Route 43 and lease ERP), now the County will purchase this property and the councils would have access to this and ERP in the same way. He stated that the Executive level of the County Administration (herein known as "Administration") is very concerned that the councils are okay with this plan. Mr. Munzert replied stating that he thinks the councils are okay with this as long as Pinkard does what they say they are going to do. Mr. Williams reported that the MOU is not written yet; we had a draft and had comments, which were sent back to them. Several staff have been going to these meetings, including Beahta Davis, as we wanted to make sure we had a representative in attendance.

In regards to background checks and eliminating the use of social security numbers, Mr. Williams stated that Ms. Davis spoke to Chris Goodman about this. SSCI can do this but it would not be as accurate and would not check on everything we want. They may not be able to gather all information on a person, i.e. where they used to live and any alias they may have used.

Mr. Williams discussed the amendment to the verbiage of the memo regarding background checks (addressed to Fred Homan, from Mike Field) submitted by John Cox.

Old Business:

Regarding the financial review, Mr. van den Beemt stated that the two councils that have not yet complied, will not be done anytime soon. He gave board members credit for making everyone else comply. Mr. Williams discussed best practices and the meeting Mike Weber orchestrated with the councils. The board made the financial review mandatory and offered assistance with this. Mr. Williams stated that theft has been prevalent within many of the councils (he heard this at 4 out of 5 president's meetings). He plans to sit down with the Administration and discuss this and the investigation process; he thinks they need to be prosecuted. Brief discussion ensued regarding online registration and how it cuts down on theft. Mr. van den Beemt plans to review the letter previously sent to council presidents regarding best practices (prepared by Mike Weber) and will prepare a revised letter for the next meeting. Further discussion ensued regarding theft. Mr. Williams stated that we may need to reshape what recreation looks like in Baltimore County. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of money a council is allowed to have in their account. Mr. Williams replied stating that to limit a council on funding would go against what the Administration has been doing lately, i.e. Towson and the artificial turf field and Soukup Arena. Mr. Manjoe reported that the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council board is looking to make sure their books are in order. In addition, he stated that they are having a difficult time getting the police to do anything with regard to the recent theft. Mr. Williams replied stating that he thinks things are very different now, which is why it is very important to discuss this with the Administration.

Mr. van den Beemt stated that there may be some life to the Facebook account. This was discussed at the president's meetings. He instructed the board to forward email addresses to Mrs. Monfred and she will communicate with Greg Heitner to get them the information. Mrs. Monfred stated that some of the council presidents appeared as if they knew nothing about this. Mr. van den Beemt asked Mrs. Monfred to follow up with Mr. Heitner, for a short message with details. We can check and see how many new members we have by December.

New Business:

Mr. Manjoe reported that he is still waiting for the president of the Liberty Road Recreation Council to get back to him. He stated that he would contact the president to get an update for the next meeting.

In Mike Milani's absence, Mr. van den Beemt reported on the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council, stating that there is significant problems, even outside of the theft. This council needs help.

Mr. Munzert had reviewed the Back River Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws and stated that numerous changes need to be made. Board members were instructed to send all changes to Chip Hiebler to create one document with all changes highlighted.

As for plans to honor Bob Nozeika and Howard Dunn, Mr. Weir stated that he has a meeting with Bryan Sheppard to look over plans. This item should be removed from the agenda.

Mr. Manjoe spoke with the president of the Parkville Recreation Council and made a motion to approve the constitution and by-laws. See item under "Action."

Mr. Weir spoke to the president of the Turner Station Recreation Council yesterday and was told they would be sending the proposed revisions to the constitution and by-laws; however, nothing has been received regarding this matter.

Mr. van den Beemt discussed the reimbursement of fees to Terry Fields, reporting that the council agreed to pay him \$500. Mr. Fields is not happy about this and plans to follow up with the council president.

Regarding background checks, there were a few disputes the council presidents voiced and they are as follows: volunteers not wanting to provide their social security number, defining who is a volunteer, and wording of protection the County is willing to give in the event someone does not comply and something happens. Brief discussion ensued regarding teen staff/roller skating programs and the statement was made that they need to do the background check. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the County could soften the language when/when not to provide coverage if someone slips through without taking the background check. Mr. Williams reported that 100 out of 6,400 have failed the background check. Mr. Weir inquired about the possibility of including something on the registration form, informing parents that if they think they may volunteer they should go to the website and take the background check. Mr. Williams replied stating that people tend to skim over these forms; this is really the job of the council president to communicate this information. He encouraged councils to go through CJIS for real time background checks, which would check for theft. Mr. Williams discussed having the board conduct a financial seminar, which they have done in the past.

Action:

Mr. Manjoe motioned to approve the revisions made to the Parkville Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Weir seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Munzert moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter