

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the Greenwood Administrative Building, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Eric van den Beemt, chairman, Chuck Munzert, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard and Lexie Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert motioned to approve the April board meeting minutes, Greg Heitner seconded, and all were in favor.

Board Member Activities:

Mr. Heitner stated that he has been approached by several groups in the community, inquiring about community funded projects. He would like to discuss this under "New Business."

Brian Weir reported on the passing of Rose Zaicko, president, Colgate Recreation Council. In addition, he announced that he was recently inducted into the Essex Baseball Ring of Honor.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. van den Beemt discussed the recent president's meeting, which was held on April 28. He stated that Adam Lippe was excellent, and believes even the best run councils took something away from this meeting. In addition, Mr. Lippe made himself very accessible to the councils. Director Barry F. Williams replied stating that he would like to schedule a meeting for those who were unable to attend, and asked board members to encourage these councils to be there. Mr. Weir suggested filming the meeting and posting it to the Facebook page. All agree that this is a great idea.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams announced that the ribbon cutting ceremony for Bob Nozeika Playground at Dinnie Field is rescheduled for Saturday, May 7 at 11:00 a.m. Board members are invited to attend.

Old Business:

Leslie Monfred addressed the board stating that they need to do something to ensure that volunteers they know of, that have not completed the background check, are not permitted to volunteer. She stated that they are aware of many that have not done so, and the board needs to enforce the law they helped to enact. Mr. van den Beemt replied stating that he agrees with Mrs. Monfred; however, they are still waiting on the answers to the questions

John Cox had posed to Mike Field. He stated that these answers are long overdue. Discussion ensued regarding having the councils monitor to make sure all volunteers have completed the background check, and if they have not, then the council needs to have them removed. Mrs. Monfred stated that they know there are people who have not completed this because they did not want to provide their social security number; however, they are still volunteering. Mike Milani stated that the board needs to obtain a list of all officers so they can make sure these individuals are in compliance, as these individuals should be doing so for all in their programs. Mrs. Monfred discussed adding something about background checks to the waiver form. Discussion ensued regarding where the enforcement responsibility lies. Mr. Weir stated that we are coming up on the one year anniversary. He stated that a letter should go out to all councils stating this. In addition, the letter should state that all should have completed the background check, and if there are volunteers that have not completed the background check, the council is in danger of being decertified. Include in the letter that acknowledgement of background check compliance would be a part of the recertification process. Mr. van den Beemt agreed and stated that we are coming up on recertification. Mr. Milani stated that paid staff should be hired to monitor this, and stated that this should be vocalized by the board as a whole. Mr. Heitner suggested that all board members think about this. He asked Mr. Williams to find out how much it would cost to get paid staff for this. Discussion ensued regarding the monitoring of background checks and making sure all are in compliance. Mr. van den Beemt asked board members to make sure all officers of each council are on the background check list. Lisa Liupaeter will get a list of all council officers to the board. Robbie Leonard motioned to add to the recertification process that those signing the form acknowledge that all officers and required volunteers have gone through the background check. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he would draft a letter and revised form to present at the next meeting, for board members to review and approve.

Regarding the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Beahta Davis stated that the last she heard, the council did not agree to the board's changes. Mr. van den Beemt stated that they would table this item until Chip Hiebler returns. Ms. Davis stated that Mr. Hiebler plans to attend the next council meeting.

Mr. Munzert stated that the Back River Recreation Council should be recognized as "in good standing" with the Board of Recreation and Parks, and should now be on probation for the next 6 months. Mr. Munzert stated that the council should continue to do the things they need to do, moving in the right direction. Mr. van den Beemt asked Mr. Munzert to convey the board's satisfaction with the progress the council has made. Regarding Ballestone, Mr. Munzert stated that the recent meeting went very well and both parties understood what needs to be done. In addition, he, Mr. van den Beemt and Ms. Davis asked the group to consider becoming their own council. Mr. Munzert reported that he believes they will take steps towards this. Brief discussion ensued with Colleen Baugher, who was in attendance from Ballestone.

New Business:

Mr. Milani announced that he attended the last council meeting for the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum. He said they appeared organized and seemed to be a good group of volunteers. He stated that he spoke with Rosemary Nicholas who was also in attendance. Discussion ensued. Mr. Milani stated that there was some bickering; however, he was pleasantly surprised. Mr. Williams stated that he would like Mr. Milani to attend the meeting scheduled for tomorrow, with the purpose of addressing Ms. Nicholas' concerns. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the board needs to respond to Ms. Nicholas, after investigating her concerns. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Milani raised a concern regarding the Board of Elections and the use of fields at polling sites. Ms. Davis replied stating that there was an issue in Catonsville where an email was sent out closing all sites; however, a follow-up email was sent stating which sites were not permitted to be used.

Lexi Lieberman was tasked with conducting research regarding bonding. Ms. Lieberman presented her findings to the board. She reiterated that this is not a requirement of the Board of Recreation and Parks. Since this is not

a requirement, there is no such list entailing which councils are bonded. She contacted Travelers, Nationwide and Chubb. She reported that it is up to each council as to how much coverage and how many people should be bonded. She relayed this information to Brent Byers. Ms. Lieberman stated that it was suggested that anyone who has check casing privileges should be bonded and the amount of coverage should cover the maximum amount that a council typically has in its bank account.

As stated previously, Mr. Heitner reported that he has been approached by several groups in the community, inquiring about community funded projects. These groups want to know more information regarding the Sparrows Point project. He stated that they are asking how they can get projects started. Ms. Davis replied stating that these groups should contact their community supervisor. Discussion ensued regarding school sites and park sites; however, it all starts with the community supervisor.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Ms. Baugher from Ballestone Mansion and Back River Recreation Council was in attendance. Ms. Baugher stated that she was there to observe.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Weir moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Milani seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter