

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 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, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler and Robbie Leonard. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beatha Davis, chief, Recreation Services and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison. Media included Michael Ruby, Country Chronicle.

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Robbie Leonard motioned to approve the September board meeting minutes, Chip Hiebler seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert reported that he attended several council meetings in his area.

Mr. Hiebler attended the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council meeting and the Lansdowne-Riverview/Baltimore Highlands Community Association Meeting, and stated that things are going well in the area.

Isaac Manjoe has been recuperating; he stated that he hopes to get out before the next meeting.

Brian Weir reported that the sign for Bob Nozeika Playground at Dinnie Field has been installed, and announced the Dundalk Eagle's plans to visit the site on Saturday.

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

Mr. van den Beemt informed board members that he has been corresponding with Dayana Bergman and stated that they would briefly review her request under "New Business."

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

Director Barry F. Williams announced that the Planning Board Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, October 20. This is the time to come before the board to discuss/request projects in your area. The folks from Towson Recreation Council were most effective in doing this.

The Lake Roland Nature Center Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26. Mr. Williams invited all board members to attend.

Mr. Williams reported that the first President's Meeting was held on Monday. There were only a few presidents in attendance, with very few questions, which indicates that they are getting their questions answered on the local level. The meeting did not run long.

On Sunday, October 30, the Angel Park Ribbon Cutting will take place. Mr. Williams stated that there were over 4,000 volunteers that worked on this project, and stated that it looks great! He announced that there will be a permanent restroom facility installed, which will be located near the amphitheater. Brief discussion ensued regarding the maintenance of the facility. Mr. Williams stated that once the site is turned over to the county, they will be responsible. Mr. Williams informed board members that Brad McCaslin, staff member with Property Management who handles playground equipment, has been out to the site. Mr. Williams stated that lots of money has gone into this project and we want it to remain looking great!

Lastly, Mr. Williams announced FallFest 2016, the kick-off to the United Way campaign. He informed board members that he would be participating at the "Pie in Your Face" booth. With help from Lisa Winters, board members were encouraged to come out to the festival.

### **Old Business:**

Regarding background checks, Mr. Williams stated that he believes they have come up with a better plan; changing the existing contract would have been a problem. Beahtha Davis reported that she met with SSCI while at the NRPA Conference, and discussed the boards' concerns. She stated that they have added a multitude of other offenses/crimes, including misappropriation of funds and theft. This took effect October 1. An additional change is what is being entered into the system. Each person would enter the name of the council and their position, selecting one of the following: board member, chairperson or volunteer. Furthermore, each volunteer would only have to submit to the background check once a year.

Board members discussed sending the recertification letter and accompanying documents to council presidents. Leslie Monfred mentioned the boards past discussion about adding a line to the recertification form, regarding completion of background checks. Board members are in agreement with this inclusion as part of the certification process. Discussion ensued regarding a statement that was made at the president's meeting about a council president and treasurer not having gone through the background check. Discussion ensued. Mr. van den Beemt to send a letter to council presidents for recertification, and the background check information will be added. Mrs. Monfred stated that the board needs to take action against those they know have not complied with the background check policy...now, not months from now. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he would draft a letter to these individuals, in addition to the recertification letter, telling them they need to be in compliance immediately, or the council will be decertified. Further discussion included adding to the recertification letter the statement that those with check cashing privileges must be bonded. Ms. Davis replied stating that by adding the additional offenses/crimes including theft to the background check, this is assisting the councils on this issue, without any cost to them. See motion made under "Action Item."

Mr. Munzert reported that he spoke with Jerry Clark regarding Darren Overton's appeal. Mr. Clark informed him that they had two meetings concerning this issue. Mr. Clark reported that there were issues between Mr. Overton and the coach; however, the bottom line is there are no refunds. Mr. Munzert stated that he would send Mr. van den Beemt an email detailing this, and Mr. van den Beemt would then get this information to Mr. Overton, upholding the councils' decision. In addition, the other issues reported were investigated and corrective action was taken. Ms. Davis stated that it was the football program that had not completed registration properly. Mr. Clark came down hard on this program and made them complete all appropriate forms immediately. In addition, the council is also completing an immediate audit to make sure funds were handled appropriately.

### **New Business:**

Mr. Munzert was contacted by the Essex U10 basketball program, with several concerns. The registration fee for this program was \$100. They had two scrimmages and had to add people to the teams. The flier stated that each team would receive a shirt, and a trophy at the end of the season; however, they would not. They were told that this was for the winter program. In addition, there were no games from August 28 through October 2. Mr. Munzert further reported that all non-players were being charged to watch the games at Essex ES. Mr. Munzert discussed the balance of the council as of December 31 and what each program participant was charged. Mr. Munzert reported that Dana Jackson, president, Essex-Stembridge Recreation Council, is going to look into this.

With regard to the Lansdowne-Riverview community, Mr. van den Beemt stated that Dayana Bergman sent him a series of emails in which she represents a group that is interested in creating a new council in the area. She would like the board's guidance on how to go about this. Mr. van den Beemt reported that all programs that wanted to, have moved to Baltimore Highlands, except football, and there have been no reports that Baltimore Highlands has not been cooperative. He stated that the board is not going to consider any new formation of a council in this area, for 1 year. At that point, if the board feels the community is not being served then they can address this at that time. Mr. Hiebler replied stating that the board approved the boundary revisions to Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council, at the last meeting, to cover the Lansdowne-Riverview area. There is no good reason to consider this. Mr. Williams supports Mr. van den Beemt and the board agrees. Mr. van den Beemt to reply to Ms. Bergman, conveying the board's thoughts.

### **Action:**

Mr. Weir made a motion that in light of all the recent thefts within the recreation councils, the board strongly recommends treasurers and council members with check writing privileges be bonded and/or insured. Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion, Greg Heitner abstained from voting, and all others were in favor.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Munzert moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters