

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, October 14, 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, Isaac Manjoe, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard and Alexis 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 6:06 p.m.

Board Member Activities:

Mike Milani announced that there is an emergency meeting scheduled tomorrow evening, for youth football. This was to discuss whether or not the Woodlawn football program would remain in participation with the Mid Maryland Youth Football League. Beahta Davis offered to attend this meeting; Leslie Monfred offered to attend as well.

Greg Heitner reported that Pinkard was making their rounds last week at the council meetings, discussing this public/private partnership. This caused a lot of dialogue – some positive and some negative. He stated that Recreation and Parks should get in front of this and let people know what is really going on. Ms. Davis replied stating that she, Director Barry F. Williams and Neil Magness met with Pinkard and presidents a month ago. Mr. Williams stated that apparently Pinkard is having a couple of other meetings; he will send them a note to keep us involved.

Brian Weir informed board members that he and Ms. Davis attended a meeting last week regarding the sale of North Point Government Center (NPGC). He circulated and discussed the article about this, which is going into the paper tomorrow. He stated that the Department of Public Works tabled the vote; he is not sure when this will take place. If the sale does not go through, the building will be deemed unusable. He reported that the new building is contingent upon the sale of the old building, and went on to discuss the many groups/organizations that would be affected by this. He stated that this is a much bigger issue than everyone thinks. He discussed how the vote for the approval of the sale would work. He stated that if they vote for the sale then the new building would be erected right next to this; however, if no sale, the building will be condemned. Lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that if the NPGC is no longer there then it would affect many programs.

Mr. van den Beemt discussed the upcoming president's meetings stating that he would like everyone to attend the meeting for their region. If board members are unable to attend, they are responsible for finding someone (possibly an at-large member) to attend in their absence. Mr. van den Beemt asked Lexie Lieberman to attend the Region 4 meeting.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams stated that we are currently in a holding pattern regarding NPGC. He stated he is uncertain what is going to happen. He has been instructed to proceed as if the sale was going through.

Mr. Williams thanked Mr. van den Beemt for his support regarding the upcoming president's meetings. It is very helpful and useful for board members to attend. He reported that he has asked the regional coordinators to get an idea of what questions will come up at these meetings, stating that this is very helpful.

Regarding Pinkard, Mr. Williams stated that he thinks they are in the process of gathering more information. He believes overall this will be good for the County. Mr. van den Beemt replied stating that there is another proposal that might go through – along the 95 corridor.

Old Business:

Regarding the financial review, Lisa Liupaeter reported that Baltimore Highlands has not submitted a copy of their tax returns. She spoke with Kara Burman today, to get a copy to the board.

Mr. Heitner reached out to a couple of council presidents in his area regarding the Facebook group. They informed him that they think it is a good idea; however, they have not had a need to use it. Discussion ensued and board members stated that it would be a good idea to bring this up at the president's meetings. In addition, board members discussed starting the conversation on the Facebook page to get things going. Mrs. Monfred suggested creating a flyer with details about the Facebook page, to hand out at the president's meetings. She stated that board members could try to obtain email addresses from the presidents during these meetings. This is the last push, and if it does not happen then this is done.

New Business:

Isaac Manjoe reported that he met with members of the Liberty Road Recreation Council. He stated that this was a good meeting and informed board members that they are still working on their by-laws. They are close to finishing the draft and once complete, they will get these to him.

Mr. Milani attended a Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council meeting and stated that he left the meeting thinking that things were moving forward. However, he then received a call from Ms. Davis informing him of the theft that occurred within the council. The authorities were contacted and charges have been filed. Board members discussed that this is the exact reason to have financial background checks for those members of a council that handle monies. Ms. Davis replied stating that SSCI is not able to do this, but the council could do this on their own. Mr. Williams stated that CJIS would be able to do this and those with financial responsibilities should go through this. Discussion ensued. Mr. Manjoe discussed the Dishonesty Bond, stating that it is not very expensive and would help with these situations. He stated that the board should discuss this with council presidents.

Mr. Weir, Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert and Ms. Davis were in attendance at the last Back River Recreation Council meeting. The council is working on re-doing their by-laws and were given until March 2016 to get everything in order. However, the by-laws should be done sooner. Mr. Munzert announced that he attended the recent hearing, which was postponed due to lack of information.

Board members briefly discussed background checks and thought it would be a good idea to discuss this at the upcoming president's meetings.

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. Weir stated that Bryan Sheppard would be in attendance at the Eastfield meeting this evening and he hopes to find something out from him.

Mr. Manjoe has reviewed the proposed revisions to the Parkville Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws. He had a few comments/changes and stated that he would contact the council and report back to the board.

Board members reviewed the proposed revisions to the Robert E. Lee Nature Council Constitution and By-Laws along with the corporate resolution for name change and voted. See item under "Action."

Board Members discussed the proposed revisions to the Turner Station Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, and the changes with regard to who is allowed to vote. Ms. Davis reported that revisions were not submitted to the board for approval, but the council has been operating under these. This was discovered when a community member requested a copy of the constitution and by-laws. Ms. Davis sent them a copy of the last approved document, which was not the latest version the council was operating under. Ms. Davis contacted the council president and these were sent in for board approval. Discussion ensued and board members voiced their concern with the number of consecutive meetings mandated in order to be eligible to vote. Ms. Davis stated that according to the community supervisor, there are only 5-6 voting members. Mr. Weir stated that he has additional concerns with the document and will talk to the council about this.

Mr. van den Beemt discussed the reimbursement of fees to Terry Fields. Mr. Fields had run a program and put forth his own money for payment of fees, and has been waiting for over a year for reimbursement. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the council president reported that Mr. Fields did not follow the rules of the council and over-ran the budget for the baseball program. Mr. van den Beemt has made numerous attempts to contact the council president and has not received a return call. Mr. Williams stated that he plans to speak to the council president about this. Mr. van den Beemt stated that if there is no resolution to this matter then Mr. Fields should take legal action, if this is what he chooses to do.

Action:

Mr. Heitner motioned to approve the revisions made to the Robert E. Lee Nature Council Constitution and By-Laws, and the corporate resolution for name change, Robbie Leonard seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Milani moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter