

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, December 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; board members Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Isaac Manjoe, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Robbie Leonard and Chip Hiebler. 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 6:03 p.m.

Board Member Activities:

Brian Weir stated that in light of the boat parade, he requested the restrooms be opened for this event. The County Executive and Bryan Sheppard agreed. He stated that it was a great event with approximately 800 people in attendance. He received a very nice letter of gratitude from the Middle River Recreation Council.

Leslie Monfred reported that she has been communicating with members of the Child Abuse Center. They wanted to attend tonight's meeting; however, they were not ready with their presentation. They would like to attend the next board meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams announced that the Route 43 project/Eastern Regional Park is currently on hold, pending some other clarification and changes to the scope and magnitude of the project. Whether or not the project will ever come into being remains to be seen.

Old Business:

Regarding the financial review, Lisa Liupaeter informed board members that Lutherville-Timonium and Edgemere-Sparrows Point Recreation Councils have submitted this information for the upcoming recertification. Mr. van den Beemt replied stating that the board should start the process of contacting the councils, in January, regarding the biannual recertification process. Mr. Weir informed board members that Gray Charles Recreation Council submitted their tax information. Mr. Williams discussed the thefts going on amongst councils. Mr. van den Beemt stated that there are too many people within the councils that have access to the checkbook and accounts. Mr. Weir received a call yesterday from a member of the Back River Recreation Council, informing him of the new treasurer (a school resource officer) that just started. He reported that they are trying to get everything together.

Greg Heitner reported that since the president's meetings, membership to the Facebook account has tripled, now totaling 36 council members. Discussion ensued regarding a post to start discussions. Mr. Heitner thanked Mrs. Monfred for her efforts.

New Business:

Isaac Manjoe conveyed that he spoke to the president of the Liberty Road Recreation Council. The president informed him that they have completed the draft constitution and by-laws and distributed this to the local board for review. The president will then get this to Mr. Manjoe to look over and he will bring this before the board along with his comments. Mr. Manjoe believes they are making progress and stated that this revision should be complete the first Wednesday in January.

Mike Milani reported on the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council, recognizing the council president's efforts, and stated that the council president did the right thing by getting the police involved regarding the theft. Beahta Davis replied stating that this council needs ongoing help beyond recreation council meetings. However, she encouraged board members to attend the council meetings to assist. Mr. Hiebler volunteered to help Mr. Milani with this task. Ms. Davis stated that she would get them the board's/council's meeting schedule. In addition, they have requested the latest version of the council's constitution and by-laws. Board members discussed whether or not the council meetings and executive board meetings are open to the public; it was stated that they are. Mr. Weir replied stating that he would let the council know that these meetings are open to the public; however, if using audio and/or video recording then consent must be granted first. Mr. Williams stated he would look into this to determine whether it is dual or single consent regarding audio.

Mr. Weir reported that there is a new treasurer at Back River Recreation Council. He stated that he thought we would have received their by-laws, in addition to Turner Station, but we have not. Mr. Hiebler stated that he collected all comments regarding the Back River Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws. He plans to send this to Ms. Liupaeter so that it may be forwarded to the council. In addition, Mr. Weir stated that the trial is scheduled for the 16th; however, he is not certain whether it will get thrown out.

John Cox had planned to submit a proposed revised document regarding the Office of Law policy on defending recreation/nature councils with regard to background check compliance. Mr. Williams informed board members that he spoke with Mr. Cox yesterday and relayed that he has not yet submitted the revised document; he is waiting for Mr. Williams to talk to Mike Field. Mr. Williams stated that he has not had a chance to speak with Mr. Field regarding this matter. Discussion ensued regarding one time volunteers and whether or not they need to have a background check and the answer is yes. To this regard, Mr. van den Beemt volunteered to take care of the teen center issue (discussed at the last board meeting). Once the board receives answers to the questions raised regarding this subject, they will get back to the councils with this information. Mr. Williams stated that we need to find out from the Baltimore County Administration what support they will give to this board if a council does not comply. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding background checks. Ms. Davis suggested tying this to recertification, making sure the council is in compliance. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the board cannot take any action with the councils until they get answers to their questions.

Paperwork was distributed to board members regarding the Bear Creek Recreation Council appeal request. Documents were reviewed by board members. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the board should hear the appeal, beginning with Bobbi Aro, since she is the individual making this request. Ms. Davis reported that she has spoken with Ms. Aro. Brief conversation ensued. Ms. Liupaeter will invite Ms. Aro to attend the next board meeting at 6:00 p.m., and will invite the council president to attend at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. van den Beemt had board members review the draft letter regarding best practices and discussion ensued. Ms. Davis expressed some concerns. Mr. van den Beemt stated he would make the changes discussed and send to Ms. Liupaeter for distribution to council presidents. Once the letter has been distributed, Mr. Heitner will

then post the letter on the Facebook page. In addition, Ms. Davis stated she would gather information on online registration companies. This would be a good topic for the Facebook page.

Mr. Weir inquired about how to get basketball rims and tennis nets reinstalled at Berkshire Park. Ms. Davis replied stating that she would take care of this.

Mr. Weir reported that he met with Bryan Sheppard regarding the newly proposed playground.

Mrs. Monfred stated that the folks with the Child Abuse Center would like to make a presentation to the board regarding child abuse prevention. Mr. van den Beemt asked Mrs. Monfred to invite them to the February meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Manjoe moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter