

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Chuck Munzert, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Isaac Manjoe, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler and Lexie Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beahta Davis, chief of recreation services; and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison.

### **Call to Order:**

Vice chairman Chuck Munzert called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Isaac Manjoe motioned to approve the May board meeting minutes, Brian Weir seconded, and all were in favor.

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

Director Barry F. Williams announced that major field renovations were planned in Kingsville and the council was asked to be off the fields by July 1. However, Mr. Williams has since learned that the scope of the project is much broader and thus, the project has been postponed.

Regarding Towson Manor Park, Mr. Williams reported that he met with a couple of folks from the community to discuss park enhancements. They discussed the unnecessary need for two entrances into the park, and the bushes that surround the playground, which he believes is unsafe. Mr. Williams stated that Councilman Marks was able to get Local Open Space monies to support the project. Mr. Williams discussed the plans for the park, stating that Phase 1 is making the greenway and Phase 2 consists of updates to the playground equipment, including an area for small tots and another area for older children. This is going to be a prototype for what he wants to see around the County. Mr. Williams stated that both the community and Councilman Marks are in favor of the project. Mr. Williams stated that when he has more concrete information on other projects, he would share this information.

In response to the question raised about whether or not the County would cover those working 20 hours/week or less, Mr. Williams stated that he spoke to Mike Field who informed him that the County would cover these individuals. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Williams has asked staff to share this information.

### **Comments by Individual Citizens:**

Board members agreed to hear from those in attendance, prior to addressing the remaining items on the agenda.

Janet Miller came before the board to address her concerns regarding the Back River Recreation Council. Ms. Miller is the secretary of the horseshoe club, a program of the recreation council. She discussed the theft that occurred within the council and went on to talk about the zero tolerance stance for this. She stated that she feels officers of the council are bullying, intimidating and retaliating against her. In addition, she discussed her concerns regarding funds, bounced checks and money transfers. She further stated that members of the council

are not following the by-laws. She stated that she wants to make sure her program gets a vote at each council meeting, that her program does not disappear, and she wants this behavior to end. Mike Milani replied stating that as long as the program is in good standing and operating as they should be, there would be no reason that the council would have an issue with the program. Mr. Williams replied stating that Mr. Munzert would work with the council to ensure that each program gets one vote at the council meeting. Discussion ensued regarding encouraging more programming and efforts to get children involved. That is good practice and is encouraged around the County, within all councils. Brief discussion ensued regarding background checks, the board looking into thefts amongst councils, and possible criteria for treasurers.

Dayana Bergman, chair of the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council youth baseball and softball program, and Sherry Mihm, vice chair, came before the board looking for assistance. Ms. Bergman first reported on the loss of funds due to the theft within the council. In addition, she reported on the theft of program equipment. Ms. Bergman stated that the lock to the storage area was not broken, and remaining items were organized. The council does not have inventory of equipment. Ms. Bergman stated that upon receiving keys to the storage area, she jotted down a list of equipment she could see and placed this list in the program file. Behta Davis discussed issues regarding Ms. Bergman's suspension, stating that no formal process has been taken. Chip Hiebler discussed the portion of the council's bylaws regarding suspension. Ms. Bergman replied stating that these procedures were not followed by the executive board. Board members' view is that Ms. Bergman was not suspended according to proper procedure indicated in the by-laws. Mr. Milani stated that he would respond to Donte White regarding the suspension, asking for documentation. Ms. Bergman stated that the executive board meeting was held on June 1 and that detrimental behavior was stated as the reason for suspension. Ms. Bergman does not agree with how Mr. White conducts business. She stated that she has done everything necessary and appropriate on her end. Ms. Bergman discussed the issue regarding restrooms not being opened. Ms. Davis replied stating that this is a staff issue, not a council issue. Mr. Hiebler and possibly Leslie Monfred plan to attend the next council meeting. Discussion ensued regarding whether the council is certified, followed by the statement that the council is currently on probation. Further discussion ensued amongst board members.

Rosemary Nicholas came before the board to address her concerns regarding the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum. Ms. Nicholas discussed various concerns including financials, spending, gift shop hours, volatility against new board members by the council president, and not following the by-laws. She stated that someone needs to step in and intervene. She has not been able to obtain treasurer reports or meeting minutes regularly. Ms. Nicholas inquired into why she had not received a response to her letter addressed to the board. Mr. Milani responded stating that he was concerned when reading her initial letter. He attended the council meeting to investigate Ms. Nicholas' concerns and stated that the council is a bit unorganized; however, he thinks it is salvageable. Mr. Milani stated that he thinks progress can be made. He thinks they have some good volunteers and has been working with a few of them to rectify some of these issues. Mr. Milani told Ms. Nicholas that the board is definitely looking into her concerns. Mr. Williams replied stating that he has read her letters, and stated that there is a process for investigating all parties. He assured Ms. Nicholas that her concerns are not going on deaf ears. Discussion ensued amongst board members.

### **Old Business:**

Mr. Manjoe thanked Mr. Hiebler for taking on the Liberty Road Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws revisions during his absence. Mr. Manjoe stated that he had made several attempts to contact the council president before he got sick, and then again once he recovered. He received a call from the council president who stated that he never received Mr. Manjoe's messages. Mr. Hiebler stated that he attended their council meeting and was ready to make a motion. See motion under "Action Item."

Regarding background checks, Lisa Liupaeter sent out the list of council executive board members. Mr. Hiebler stated that he reviewed a lot of these names and reported that many are not on the list of approved volunteers. Chairman Eric van den Beemt is planning to prepare a draft letter and recertification form for the board to review. Mrs. Monfred mentioned again that there should be a check box on the registration form that

parents check off, acknowledging that they were informed that coaches must have a background check, and the names of those coaches/volunteers that have passed are on the following web page:

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/jobsvolunteers/volunteernow.html>.

**New Business:**

The proposed revisions to the Cromwell Valley Park Council will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Mrs. Monfred reported on concerns regarding the dog park at Hannah More. She contacted the concerned citizen and also attended the council meeting. She took them to the dog park at Lake Roland as a reference of good operation. In addition, Mrs. Monfred was informed that the restrooms at Hannah More have not been open for use by those participants in the senior softball program. Ms. Davis replied stating that the restrooms should be open during the day for these participants. Mrs. Monfred relayed the council's request for a park attendant at Hannah More. Ms. Davis informed her that there are field leaders that work at the park. Ms. Davis also reported that according to the budget, additional staff could be hired if needed.

Mr. Williams announced that this is Lexi Lieberman's last meeting. Ms. Lieberman stated that she would like to remain on the board and that she has learned a lot. Mr. Williams stated that he would make a recommendation that she remain on the board.

**Action:**

Mr. Hiebler made a motion to accept the proposed revisions to the Liberty Road Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, as submitted. Mr. Milani seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mrs. Monfred moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter