

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Monday, March 21, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse – Room 118, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Eric van den Beemt, chairman, Chuck Munzert, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler, Robbie Leonard and Lexie Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services, Chris McCollum, executive director, Agriculture, Nature & Special Facilities and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

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

Board Member Activities:

Brian Weir reported that he is getting a lot of things accomplished.

Leslie Monfred asked whether or not board members were invited to the upcoming meeting with council presidents and the State's Attorney. Director Barry F. Williams replied stating that board members are invited to attend, and he strongly encouraged this. Discussion ensued regarding best practices and what can be done to keep theft from happening.

Mike Milani briefly discussed the recent Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council meeting, which he and Chip Hiebler attended, stating that the council seems to be moving forward.

Mr. van den Beemt recently attended the Carroll Manor Recreation Council meeting and stated that "financial procedures" was on the agenda. This is due to the letter the Board recently sent to all recreation/nature councils. Mr. van den Beemt stated that this council thought there could be potential issues and wanted to get on top of things.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. van den Beemt discussed financial disclosure forms, reminding all board members to complete this.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams asked Chris McCollum to discuss recently proposed legislation. Mr. McCollum reported that they took past experiences and looked at how other jurisdictions/states handled these. They then had the language redrafted, to allow staff the ability to issue citations. Staff, designated by Mr. Williams, will attend training. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that he would like to attempt to get people to comply; however, if they do not comply, they will be issued a citation. Mr. Milani suggested issuing badges to staff members; he

thinks it would help. Mr. Williams stated that Dr. Gregory Branch gave him authorization to deputize staff to issue off leash citations, and the Office of Budget and Finance will give him authorization to deputize staff to issue parking tickets. Brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Williams announced that the next president's meeting is scheduled for April 28. Adam Lippe, with the State's Attorney's Office, will be in attendance to address the issue of theft. Those in attendance will hear how the State's Attorney's Office plans to prosecute those committing this crime, in addition to discussion of best practices regarding the law and safeguarding funds. Mr. Williams stated that he would really like board members to attend.

Old Business:

Regarding the Liberty Road Recreation Council, Mr. Hiebler stated that he would have the revised constitution and by-laws sent to him. He stated that he would look over them and forward to board members. Mr. Hiebler claims the council is making progress.

Mr. Milani led a discussion regarding the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council, stating that he believes they are on their way to becoming a cohesive, functioning group. He stated that he thought the last meeting went very well. Mr. Hiebler commented that they have a tremendous amount of programs and are really making progress. Mr. Milani stated that the by-laws need a little work, but this is not a problem. Mr. Hiebler sent the by-laws to board members for comment. Discussion ensued regarding excluding children and council members from participating if they did not live in the community. Mr. Williams replied stating that you cannot exclude children. Beahtha Davis will send Mr. Hiebler well drafted by-laws for reference. Mr. van den Beemt will respond to Donte White, and share with him the comments from the board. In addition, he will let Mr. White know that the board is reviewing the by-laws.

Mr. Munzert reported that he has attended two Back River Recreation Council meetings, since the last board meeting, and stated that his attitude has completely changed. Mr. Munzert stated that the treasurer went over everything thoroughly, and is in the process of being bonded. The treasurer appears to be very organized and has made the documents readily available. The meetings went very well. Mr. Munzert turned over the revised by-laws at the meeting. They reviewed, with brief discussion and then a vote was taken. Brief discussion ensued regarding background checks and the council's inquiries about this.

Mr. Williams informed board members that ~11,400 individuals have passed the background check. He stated that the majority are in compliance; however, this is not something we are asking, but rather mandating. Mr. Williams stated that John Cox and Mike Field were to have spoken; however, Mr. Williams stated that he has not heard from Mr. Cox. Discussion ensued regarding council concerns, in addition to what the councils are doing to ensure volunteers have passed the background check. Mr. van den Beemt asked Mr. Williams to follow up with Mr. Field and Mr. Cox. Mrs. Monfred discussed asking legal what language could be added to the waiver forms that parents could initial indicating they understand that background checks are mandatory and that they have checked the County website to verify the coach is on the list. Mr. van den Beemt suggested having a line on the form that the parent can check off, to read: I understand that each coach/volunteer is required by Baltimore County to undergo a background check. You can view those who have been approved by going to www.baltimorecountymd.gov/recreationvolunteers. See item under "Action."

Mr. Weir reported that Turner Station Recreation Council has not sent their by-laws back to the board. He stated that he has asked the council president repeatedly, but has not received anything.

Action:

Mr. Weir motioned to accept Mr. van den Beemt's language for adding information regarding background checks to the waiver form. Robbie Leonard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Milani moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Weir seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter