

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, April 13, 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 Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler and Lexie Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director, and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Greg Heitner motioned to approve the March board meeting minutes, Brian Weir seconded, and all were in favor.

Board Member Activities:

Mr. Weir announced that the Eastwood ribbon cutting is scheduled for next Saturday.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. van den Beemt informed board members of the email he received from Brent Byers, president, Marshy Point Nature Center Council, regarding bonding. Mr. van den Beemt discussed creating a standard procedure response. Although this is not required, Mr. van den Beemt stated that it is certainly a good idea. See more under "New Business."

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams announced that the ribbon cutting ceremony for Bob Nozeika Playground at Dinnie Field is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 at 11:00 a.m. Board members are invited to attend.

On another note, Mr. Williams discussed the tragic event that took place on August 8, 2014, where a young boy drowned at Oregon Ridge Beach. The family is now suing the County, Mr. Williams and a lifeguard. The County attorney is representing all. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that there was discussion at the last Management Staff Meeting regarding the documentation of incidents. This must be very detailed and well documented.

Mr. Williams announced that Behta Davis is currently at the MRPA conference in Ocean City, and that she will be the next president of this organization. He is heading to the ocean tomorrow for her installation. The board thinks very highly of Ms. Davis and is pleased that she is taking on this role.

Old Business:

Regarding the Liberty Road Recreation Council, Chip Hiebler stated that Ms. Davis made contact with those council members working on the by-laws; however, she did not receive a response, nor did he receive this document.

Mr. Hiebler reported that he did not receive any feedback from board members regarding the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, and therefore, would like to make a motion to approve this document. See item under "Action." Mr. Hiebler stated that he would follow-up with the council, and let them know of the board's decision. In addition, he stated that he plans to attend their next council meeting. Mr. van den Beemt asked Mr. Hiebler to let the council know that the board thinks they are making progress. They are not out of the woods yet; however, they should avoid getting discouraged, and keep working.

The Back River Recreation Council is waiting for the board to approve their constitution and by-laws. See item under "Action." Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert reported that the only thing outstanding is the financial piece. The council has plans to meet with the accountant to hash out the problems they uncovered after filing taxes.

Mr. Williams announced that he spoke with Mike Field, who informed him that he sent a letter to John Cox indicating his willingness to discuss concerns/questions regarding background checks. However, Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Field has not heard from Mr. Cox. Mr. Williams stated that he would follow-up with Mr. Cox again next week.

Mr. Weir reported that Turner Station Recreation Council has not sent their by-laws back to the board. The council should continue to operate under their old by-laws. This item should be removed from the agenda.

New Business:

Mr. van den Beemt read Mr. Byers' email to board members. He stated that he thinks there should be a resource on the board to assist with this. Mr. Hiebler stated that he previously served on a board and had to be bonded; the cost was ~\$200 - \$300 per year. Mr. van den Beemt asked Lexi Lieberman to research this matter, in addition to replying to Mr. Byers informing him that the board is looking into this.

Mr. van den Beemt discussed the 15 page document sent to the board and various members of the administration, and county council regarding the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, stating that this is something the board needs to look into. Mr. Williams replied that there will be a meeting scheduled to discuss the reported issues, and will include Cynthia de Jesus, Mike Milani, Chris McCollum, Justine Schaffer and the council treasurer. He stated that he spoke with Ms. de Jesus today and told her that this needed to happen to review and discuss what the document entailed. The board and the department are investigating this.

The next board meeting is with the Board of Education and Mr. van den Beemt encouraged board members to think of issues they would like to discuss. Several board members stated that it seems that things have been going well over the last year. Mr. van den Beemt reported that there are still issues in Hereford. Brief discussion ensued.

Action:

Mr. Hiebler motioned to accept the proposed Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Munzert seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mr. Munzert motioned to approve the proposed Back River Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Hiebler seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. van den Beemt moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter