

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERIC VAN DEN BEEMT, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2016

There was an administrative function held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland, to hear an appeal of the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council's decertification. In attendance were Eric van den Beemt, chairman; Chuck Munzert, vice chairman; Lisa Winters, board secretary; board members Leslie Monfred, Greg Heitner, Chip Hiebler and Robbie Leonard. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services and Kara Burman, regional coordinator, Region 1. Those in attendance from the Lansdowne-Riverview community included Pat Kreitzburg, Ryan Brown, Amy Cope and Crystal Mattis.

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, September 14, 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 Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Greg Heitner, Brian Weir, Chip Hiebler and Lexi Lieberman. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services and Michael Schneider, community outreach liaison. Media included Michael Ruby, Country Chronicle.

Call to Order:

Chairman Eric van den Beemt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Chip Hiebler motioned to approve the July board meeting minutes, Vice Chairman Chuck Munzert seconded, and all were in favor.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Darren Overton addressed the board regarding the Rosedale Recreation Council. Mr. Overton is a parent and former assistant coach of the 10U football program. His son last participated on the team on August 5, but has since left the team due to a conflict with the coach. Mr. Overton stated that there were approximately 10 – 11 participants playing without mouth guards, which prompted him to confront the coach. Mr. Overton reported that during this time, a participant suffered a minor concussion and went to the hospital. In addition, Mr. Overton stated that his son was not given playing time during the scrimmage. With all that had taken place, Mr. Overton decided to remove his son from the team. He returned the equipment and requested a refund (in the amount of \$100) from the council. His request was denied. Mr. Overton attempted to appeal this decision to the football program and the council president, and his appeal was denied. He reached out to Karen Brown, requesting information on how to make a formal appeal, but stated that Ms. Brown never followed up with him. He then contacted Charles Young, who referred him to Bob Smith, who directed him to the Board of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Overton stated that his two other children are still participating in the football program at Rosedale Recreation Council, and his other son has since joined a program in Hamilton. Board members informed Mr. Overton that they would look into this and get back to him. See "New Business" for further discussion by board members.

Pat Kreitzburg and Amy Cope came before the board to propose the formation of a new council in the Lansdowne-Riverview community. They stated that they have undergone some reorganization, applied for an EIN #, filed corporation paperwork and applied for 501(c) 3 status. They distributed a handout to all in attendance and discussed their plans to operate as a certified council. In addition, they stated that they plan to find another bank, as they had problems with Wells Fargo. Ms. Kreitzburg and Bill Brophy were on the board for the Lansdowne-Riverview Recreation Council and all other proposed officers are new to the board, but not new to the council. Those in attendance discussed the need/benefit to the community to have another council, if programs have joined neighboring councils. Board members thanked the ladies for coming and told them they would be in touch. See "New Business" for further discussion by board members.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. van den Beemt told board members about an article in The Jeffersonian regarding recreation councils, in which, he and Director Barry F. Williams were quoted.

Mr. van den Beemt reported that he was contacted by the largest soccer league in the county, regarding concerns of paying referees cash on the field. The league stated that the referees do not want to work for them because they will not conduct payment this way. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding what the board has stated in the past, and the repercussions of doing such. Mike Milani replied stating that this is an IRS issue; the board has already strongly recommended what the councils should do. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he would follow up with the league.

Board Member Activities:

Mr. Milani commented on the start of youth football.

Mr. Williams announced that Lexi Lieberman was reappointed to the Board of Recreation and Parks.

Greg Heitner reported that he has been called into a number of meetings regarding community funded projects. In addition, he stated that he recently heard that the community needs to continue to raise \$28,000 for the upkeep of Angel Park. Mr. Heitner pointed out that there is no restroom, bridge, fence or crosswalk. Mr. Williams stated that he believes, at some point in time, they will need to build a handicapped accessible restroom facility.

Brian Weir followed up on an inquiry regarding new playground equipment for Berkshire Park. Beahta Davis replied stating that she would look into this. In addition, Mr. Weir reported that he attended the Region 4 President's Meeting last Thursday and they elected all new officers. On another note, Mr. Weir stated that they are still waiting for the sign for Bob Nozeika Playground at Dinnie Field. Ms. Davis replied informing Mr. Weir of the process in which the department has gone through in order to obtain this sign. She stated that they have started production on the sign and it should not be long before it is complete. Regarding keys for recreation facilities, Mr. Weir reported that an individual (Dave Patrow) was given a set of keys; however, he thought that the department did not allow the distribution of keys. He asked Don Kuklinski about this and Mr. Kuklinski responded stating that the individual was a leader, therefore he is permitted to have the keys. Mr. Weir reported that the keys have since been taken back. Mr. Weir then inquired about any news regarding the North Point Government Center. Mr. Williams replied stating that he has not heard anything. Lastly, Mr. Weir questioned the 8% cut in funding for leadership. Ms. Davis replied stating that this is accurate.

Leslie Monfred reported that she received a call from Brian Friedlander, president, Greater Pikesville Recreation Council, regarding a problem with use of facilities. Ms. Davis responded stating that she is working with BCPS Physical Facilities to find the council space for their Hebrew program. Mrs. Monfred stated that the council has donated money to Pikesville High School, and Mr. Friedlander is upset that he is not part of the

construction meetings. Ms. Davis stated that these meetings are for staff, but further stated that it would be important for the council and the athletic director to talk so they are on the same page, as they would be using the facility. Ms. Davis stated that she spoke with Mr. Friedlander this morning.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams spoke briefly about the article in The Jeffersonian, and reported to board members that he was contacted by Jennifer Franciotti, with WBAL, to be interviewed regarding recreation council programs and the cost to participate.

The Oregon Ridge Nature Center (ORNC) ribbon cutting was yesterday. Mr. Williams stated that it is beautiful and encouraged everyone to visit. Bill Kidd donated \$40,000, ORNC donated \$10,000 and the county contributed \$110,000. Mr. Williams announced construction plans for another pavilion, which will be built by the quarry, in lieu of the swimming area.

Mr. Williams reported that the North Point Village Recreation Council purchased security equipment to be placed at the concession stand. The county has given them permission to place the equipment at the concession stand, but informed the council that they would not maintain the equipment.

Old Business:

Michael Schneider reported that he was in touch with the director of SSCI, regarding background checks. He stated that the current parameters would not disqualify financial infractions. The criteria would have to be adjusted to include this, and would cost an additional \$5 per check. Mr. Schneider informed board members that he also checked with CJIS and reported that this would cost more money; however, it would provide constant updates. In addition, Mr. Schneider discussed the cost of the additional background check for those handling funds. Board members discussed, as part of the recertification process, the addition of listing those council members who have access to funds, in addition to bonding information. Lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that he would talk to Fred Homan and Mike Field, regarding the board's concern that those in the council handling funds go through a more vigorous background check. A motion was made regarding bonding. See item under "Action." Mr. van den Beemt stated that once Mr. Williams gets back to him, he will then recreate the cover letter for the councils, for recertification. Mr. Williams stated that he will have some answers at the next meeting.

Mr. Williams reported that he met with the president of the Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, and then met with two board members. He stated that the group should only be operating under the 2007 by-laws, which were approved by the board. In addition, he reported that Cynthia deJesus has one more year as president of the group, and there are others lining up to elect a new president. Mr. Williams commented that this is not a good situation, but he is committed to supporting acceptable procedures.

Mr. Weir reported that the revised constitution and by-laws of the Turner Station Recreation Council were finally submitted. See motion under "Action." Mr. Weir will inform the council president of the board's decision.

New Business:

Mr. Hiebler reviewed the proposed revisions to the Cromwell Valley Park Council Constitution and By-Laws and motioned to approve the document as written. See item under "Action." Mr. Hiebler to notify the council president regarding the board's decision.

Board members briefly discussed the proposed revisions to the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws. Mr. Hiebler made a motion to accept these changes. See item under “Action.” Mr. Hiebler will notify the council president regarding the board’s decision.

Discussion ensued amongst board members regarding Mr. Overton’s appeal. A motion was made to give the chairman authority to act on the board’s behalf, upon receiving further information pertaining to this situation. See item under “Action.” Mr. Munzert volunteered to speak with Jerry Clark. In addition, he would like to see if any paperwork exists. Many in attendance voiced concern regarding the cash payment for registration – with no receipt, and that the registration form and other necessary forms were not completed. Ms. Davis will look into this and report her findings to Mr. Munzert. Upon receiving information from Ms. Davis, Mr. Munzert will then speak to Mr. Clark.

Further discussion ensued regarding the proposal of a new council in the Lansdowne-Riverview community. Mr. Hiebler stated that he attended the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council meeting. At this meeting, the council discussed the programs that have moved over from Lansdowne-Riverview. Mr. Hiebler commented that this is a well-functioning council. He reported that the president of Baltimore Highlands stated that all programs from the Lansdowne-Riverview area are welcome to join their council, with the exception of football and any program run by Dayana Bergman. The condition for accepting programs into the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council were that they would join permanently. Mrs. Monfred stated that the board should recognize the significant amount of time Mr. Milani and Mr. Hiebler dedicated to this issue. A motion was made regarding the proposed new council. See item under “Action.” Mr. van den Beemt to notify Ms. Kreitzburg of the board’s decision.

Action:

Mr. Milani motioned to suspend the portion of the motion (made during the July meeting) regarding bonding, which reads (in its entirety) as follows: *Mrs. Monfred motioned to certify that all councils have a procedure in place for ensuring that all volunteers have completed a background check, and all council members with access to funds undergo an additional financial background check, and be bonded annually. Mr. Hiebler added to this motion that they maintain bonding annually. Mrs. Monfred then added that this be part of the annual recertification process. Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion and all were in favor. Mr. Heitner seconded and all were in favor.*

Mr. Weir motioned to accept the revisions to the Turner Station Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Hiebler seconded and all were in favor.

Mr. Hiebler motioned to approve the proposed revisions to the Cromwell Valley Park Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Milani seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Hiebler motioned to accept the proposed revisions to the Baltimore Highlands Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Milani seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Milani motioned to grant Mr. van den Beemt authority to act on the board’s behalf, upon receiving further information pertaining to the Rosedale Recreation Council appeal request. Mrs. Monfred seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Hiebler recommended not to accept the new Lansdowne-Riverview organization as presented to the board, Mr. Heitner seconded, Mr. Milani abstained from voting, and all others were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mrs. Monfred moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters