

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

COREY JOHNS, CHAIR

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the Banneker Community Center. In attendance were Corey Johns, Chair; and board members Brooks Paternotte, Jon Marsalek, Isaac Manjoe, Pat Roddy, and Chuck Munzert. Department staff included Bob Smith, Director; and Cortney Weinstock, Deputy Director.

Also in attendance: Jeffrey Budnitz, Lake Roland Nature Council; and Michael Ruby, Country Chronicle.

Call to Order:

Chair Corey Johns called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Isaac Manjoe motioned to approve the September meeting minutes; Pat Roddy seconded the motion, Jon Marsalek abstained since he did not have a chance to review, and all other board members were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Director Bob Smith announced that Baltimore County Recreation and Parks (BCRP) was approved for CAPRA certification last Monday in Atlanta, at the NRPA Annual Conference. There was a final hearing on Monday, and BCRP received official designation at the Best of the Best Ceremony held at conference. BCRP will now be up for review every five years and must complete an annual audit every year. There are 10,000 municipal agencies in the country with 214 certified, and Baltimore County is now one of seven CAPRA Accredited agencies in the state of Maryland.

BCRPs' Help Empower youth to Advocate and Lead (HEAL) mentorship program is receiving the MRPA Raising Up Award. The award recognizes partnerships that improve the community. The program provides a secure and nurturing environment where mentees can learn valuable skills such as leadership, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and advocacy.

Mr. Smith reported on overall staff movements, which will result in a new organizational chart/roster. In addition, Mr. Smith discussed staff retirements, and announced that BCRP is in the process of hiring for a number of positions.

The Department sent out insurance clarification on October 1, and board members were in receipt of this information. Mr. Johns stated that he had clarification on this, specifically the indemnification portion of the content. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Smith reported that there are some minor issues with County Council, referencing the Supplemental Budget. This item was up for vote last night and includes capital funding for the Department. Mr. Smith believes this passed. We anticipate MANO going before council late October/November, and the Sivels Transportation, Inc. contract is scheduled to go before Council on November 4.

The Rosedale RAC Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for October 22. Mr. Smith further provided a recap on the last several ribbon cuttings held. The Sparrows Point Park (SPP) Hard Hat Tour is scheduled for Friday and Mr. Smith was asked to invite Mr. Johns. SPP is scheduled to open in January. The cricket pitch at Cloverland Park is under design, and the agency is making modifications to Days Cove. The BCRP Open House and Community Listening Sessions kicked off last night, with the first session lightly attended. Discussion ensued. In addition, the Oregon Ridge Trails Public Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 19 at Oregon Ridge Lodge. Lastly, Mr. Smith reminded board members to submit capital requests to Mr. Johns by November 1.

Committee Reports:

Governance Committee: Mr. Johns stated that the Board needs to decide what they want to do in terms of recertification, with reference of upcoming MOUs. Lengthy discussion ensued, with Mr. Smith adding that the agency does not weigh in on fiscal pieces pertaining to the councils. In addition, the County has the ultimate authority on whether or not to enter into an agreement (MOU) with a council. With that said, Mr. Johns asked then, what the reason is for recertification. Discussion ensued regarding crafting the MOU to cover the requirements of the Board, including recertification, to encompass all requirements in one document, versus two separate documents. Mr. Johns motioned to drop the recertification process that has been done in years past, and tie certification into the MOUs. Discussion ensued with Mr. Roddy making a motion. See item under "Action." Mr. Johns withdrew his motion. Mr. Johns stated that a preliminary discussion should now occur to decide what aspects of the recertification process should be included in the MOU. Mr. Smith stated that the end date to have all MOUs executed is December 31, 2024. Discussion ensued regarding what to include. Mr. Smith indicated that several of the items affiliated with recertification are already included in the MOU. Mr. Johns stated that his suggestion is to incorporate that the councils are subject to a financial review by the Board, and should abide by bylaws that are approved by the Board.

Bylaws Committee: Mr. Manjoe stated that if a council presents bylaws, these should be submitted to the Board district representative. Mr. Johns stated that this board member should be included on the committee when pertaining to the councils in their district. Mr. Manjoe replied, stating that this has not been happening. Further discussion ensued regarding the need to identify changes made to the bylaws when they are submitted to the Board for review. Regarding Turner Station, Mr. Johns stated that the bylaws need to be completely rewritten. Mr. Johns plans to attend the next committee meeting to further discuss.

Financial Review Committee: Nothing to report.

Legislative Committee: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Regarding the *Insurance Grant Update*, Mr. Johns asked Mr. Smith for a two-week extension for nature councils. Mr. Johns stated that *Reimagine Recreation and Parks Update* and *Insurance Grant Update* have been discussed, and there are no additional comments by board members.

Mr. Johns reminded board members to email *Capital Requests* to him.

New Business:

Regarding *Recreation and Nature MOU Updates*, Mr. Johns referenced the timeline, and asked board members to get feedback on the MOU by the end of the month. Presidents who submit feedback will be brought in to work with the smaller MOU Committee to get a draft revision back to the department.

Mr. Johns reported on *Elections of the Board* and how this is dictated in the Board's bylaws, further stating that he thinks this should be revised. Mr. Johns stated that the election should take place in December and not February, as this makes more sense to carry over into the new year. Mr. Johns identified a Nominating Committee to include Brooks Paternotte and Danielle Bassett.

Board Member Activities and Chair's Report:

Mr. Roddy moved to table Board Member Activities and Chair's Report; Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion, Mr. Marsalek opposed the motion, stating that he had questions for the Director and proceeded to address Mr. Smith. Mr. Marsalek asked for an update on the Board's request for County email. Mr. Smith replied, stating that he was told by the Office of Information Technology that none of the other boards have external email addresses; they are internal only, within the County system. However, it is still in process. Mr. Marsalek further stated that there is an issue with Sparks baseball field; he will reach out to Mr. Smith directly, with a copy to Amy Vagnoni. In addition, he also asked about County fees for programs.

Comments By Individual Citizens:

Jeffrey Budnitz discussed the potential issue the County faces in trying to enter into an MOU with an unincorporated entity, and there are apparently 16 unincorporated recreation councils. Discussion ensued with board members regarding official processes. Mr. Budnitz further discussed the MOU timeline and emphasized the lack of time to complete these. He strongly encouraged board members to read the MOUs.

Action:

Mr. Roddy moved that the certification process be incorporated into the MOU, and that the Board makes recommendations to the Department as to what should be in the MOU. Mr. Manjoe seconded Mr. Roddy's motion, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Manjoe moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Paternotte seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters