

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

GREG HEITNER, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Oregon Ridge Park and Lodge. In attendance were Corey Johns, Vice Chairman; and board members Eric van den Beemt, Chuck Munzert, Isaac Manjoe and Dana Jackson. Recreation and Parks Department staff included Director Roslyn Johnson; Bob Smith, Deputy Director of Recreation and Facility Operations; Cortney Weinstock, Deputy Director of Administration; Ben Porter, Chief of Nature, Agricultural, Environmental and Programming Centers; and Annie Sanchez, Park Manager.

Also in attendance: Ralph Brown, President, Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council; Michael Ruby, Country Chronicle; Artie Smith, Vice President of Colgate Recreation Council and Kara Shriver, member of the Colgate Recreation Council.

6:07 p.m.: Ben Porter addressed the Board regarding the Zero Waste initiative. All plates, cups, napkins and utensils used this evening can be composted. In addition, a dispenser full of water was provided, as well as cans of soda, which can be recycled. This is something we have started doing at some of our events and would like to do so at the Board Meetings.

Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Corey Johns called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and noted that we do not have a quorum, which means no votes can be taken this evening.

Old Business:

Regarding recertification, Eric van den Beemt stated that board members have been unsuccessful in getting all councils to comply, and proposed the removal or non-issuance of permits. Mr. Johns suggested board members attend the monthly meetings of the councils, to have the discussion regarding recertification and the risks associated with non-compliance. Chuck Munzert stated that there is no need to give councils another month and suggested holding a special meeting to address this matter. Dana Jackson replied, stating that she is in agreement with following the rules/procedures/plans the Board has put in place. Mr. Johns will reach out to Chairman Greg Heitner to set up a meeting.

Ms. Jackson reported that she spoke with the president and members of the Colgate Recreation Council. They have almost everything for recertification, but not the council's yearly budget and program budgets. Members of the Council told Ms. Jackson that this is how they have always submitted their recertification paperwork. Council member Kara Shriver stated that they don't have clear direction on how this should be done. Discussion ensued. Colgate Recreation Council members are questioning why they were recertified two years ago, but not this time, when the same information was submitted. Board members told them that if they have questions regarding recertification they should contact their representative for clarification/assistance. Council members Artie Smith and Ms. Shriver stated that they will compile the missing information and get this submitted as soon as possible. Board members stated that they can continue operating their programs, but they need to get

this information turned in as soon as possible to allow for recertification at next month's meeting. Regarding recertification status, Ms. Jackson reported that she has five incomplete and one she has not heard from.

Board Member Activities:

Ms. Jackson reported that she attended the Essex-Stembridge Recreation Council meeting and spoke about the registration software the County is putting together, and reported that the conversation did not go well. Ms. Jackson further stated that there was also question/concerns regarding the scholarship aspect. Director Roslyn Johnson stated that we will be phasing this in rather slowly with early adopters, then a second wave consisting of others ready to come on board, and the third wave will be the remaining folks. All will have to go through the registration program. There will be criteria/standards established, which have not been created yet. Ms. Johnson stated that there needs to be something standard across the board when utilizing our facilities. Ms. Jackson commented that there are families that will not fill out paperwork given their illegal status; they are fearful of possible repercussions. Ms. Jackson reported that the Council asked her to request County staff attend their next meeting to further discuss. Ms. Johnson replied, stating that they would come out, but not until they have answers/outlined plan to share.

Mr. Munzert reported that he met with the District Attorney last week and charges were filed regarding the Dundalk-Eastfield case. In addition, they got all paperwork together with regards to the case on the west side. Mr. Munzert stated that they had to write a three page letter before they would look at the case.

Chairman's Report:

Regarding Owings Mills, Mr. Johns reported in Mr. Heitner's absence that Mr. Heitner recommends not issuing a refund as there is a clearly established no refund policy in place.

Director's Comments:

Ms. Johnson announced that the All Staff scheduled on September 28 went well. The new logo was unveiled, and she thanked all for voting.

We have several upcoming groundbreakings/ribbon cuttings. The Ravens Destination Playground at Northwest Regional Park is scheduled for October 17. A groundbreaking for Rosedale RAC is scheduled for October 21. The groundbreaking for Fields at Renaissance Park is scheduled for November 7. Middle River RAC groundbreaking is scheduled on November 17.

There are also several upcoming community meetings scheduled. There are two public input meetings scheduled for the Oregon Ridge Regional Park Master Plan, October 1 in person and October 6 via WebEx. In addition, there will be two meetings scheduled in November regarding the findings, these meetings are scheduled for November 12 in person and November 16 via WebEx. Gwynn Oak Park Enhancements Public Input Meeting is scheduled for October 18 via WebEx. The Belfast Road Property Public Input Meeting is scheduled for October 27 at Hereford HSRC.

Ms. Johnson reported on the Recreation Activity Center "RAC" roll out, stating that PAL Centers have not been PAL Centers for quite some time. These Centers will now become RACs. We want to distinguish them as RACs where we will have department directed programming. Ms. Johnson stated that the police will still come by, but they will not conduct programs. Ms. Johnson stated that PAL is for 8-17 years of age; RACs will be unlimited, beginning at 6 years of age (if they have completed kindergarten) and up. Each RAC will have a theme as follows: Rosedale RAC is Esports; Middle River RAC is Aeronautics; Cockeysville RAC is Music; Dundalk RAC is Rising Stars; Hillendale RAC is Around the World; Lansdowne RAC is Locomotive; Mars Estates RAC is Chesapeake Bay; Scotts Branch RAC is Roots of Life; Shady Spring RAC is United Movement; Winfield RAC is Mind, Body & Soul; and Woodmoor RAC is Every Day Heroes.

New Business:

Mr. Johns would like to schedule a meeting with Jerry Clark, President of Rosedale Recreation Council and Ms. Johnson to discuss additional uses for Golden Ring Park. Ms. Johnson instructed Mr. Johns to reach out to Lisa Winters to schedule.

Mr. Johns reminded all to complete the background check, if needed, and to remind all councils to do so as well.

Ms. Winters reminded all to complete the Ethics Training, if they have not already done so.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Johns moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Munzert seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters