

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

COREY JOHNS, CHAIR

## Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at Marshy Point Nature Center. In attendance were Corey Johns, Chair; and board members Brooks Paternotte, Isaac Manjoe, Chuck Munzert and Dana Jackson.

Also in attendance: Ralph Brown, Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council; Tanya Brunner, Bear Creek Recreation Council (BCRC); Jeffrey Budnitz, Lake Roland Nature Council; Kim Harrison, Overlea-Fullerton Recreation Council; Tanya Masters, BCRC; Rebecca Reynolds, BCRC; Michael Ruby, Country Chronicle; Carmita Vogel, Baltimore Youth Cycling; and Debi Wynn, Baltimore Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association.

The Board did not have a quorum; therefore, could not vote on any action items.

### **Call to Order:**

Chair Corey Johns called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

### **Appeal Hearings:**

Although unable to take action due to lack of a quorum, board members discussed the BCRC matter. Chuck Munzert stated that he never read anything in the documents provided, stating that Rebecca Reynolds did anything wrong during a council program. Thus, indicating that BCRC implemented the suspension because of issues she had with another member of BCRC. Tanya Masters, president, BCRC, reported that multiple people came forward with the same complaints. Mr. Munzert asked what the penalty was for the other party involved. Ms. Masters stated that the other involved party was issued a six-week suspension and not allowed to enter the facility to pick up or drop off their child, nor attend the program recital. This individual honored the suspension, which was the same initial suspension issued to Ms. Reynolds. Ms. Masters reported that the suspension for Ms. Reynolds continued because she did not abide by the initial suspension issued. Further, Ms. Reynolds never appealed to BCRC, which has an appeal process in place. Mr. Johns asked if BCRC has had contact with Ms. Reynolds in the past six weeks. Ms. Masters replied, stating they have not had contact with Ms. Reynolds. However, Ms. Masters reported that BCRC issued a further suspension to Ms. Reynolds, in September 2023, for an indefinite timeframe. Mr. Johns asked if the basis of the suspension was in regards to harassment, and Ms. Masters replied, stating that it was. Mr. Johns then asked if incident reports were filed and the answer was no. Mr. Johns stressed the importance of incident reports. Dana Jackson stated that she had instructed BCRC to document the incidents, rather than instructing them to file incident reports, due to awaiting confirmation from the Department on how these are to be conducted. Mr. Munzert asked for confirmation that BCRC does not want Ms. Reynolds or her child involved in the Council, and Ms. Masters replied, stating that was correct. Mr. Johns stated that BCRC can suspend an individual from participation, but cannot ban them from the sideline of a field/stands, parking lot, or building [but could ban from room program is taking place]. Ms. Reynolds stated that she never received the suspension in writing and continued to ask for this. However, Ms. Reynolds stated that there was a verbal confrontation in a public space, with others involved – identified as being friends of BCRC board members, which she feels is why all involved parties were not told to deal with the matter outside of BCRC. Ms. Reynolds does not want to be banned and thinks that the way the situation was handled was unprofessional. She stated that she did not know she could attend the board meetings, and asked about this. Ms.

Masters said she and the head dance teacher took Ms. Reynolds outside and explained the ban. Mr. Johns replied, stating that if there is a suspension, notice should be sent via email, along with council bylaws to state the appeal process. Ms. Master stated that she did this. Ms. Masters further stated that this occurred due to multiple families coming to her, which was indication that the issue(s) was spilling into the council environment. Mr. Johns asked if BCRC felt they were at a point to lift the ban and move forward, noting that if any incidents occurred thereafter, action would be taken as needed, including looping in the Department to discuss the ban of a facility. Ms. Masters replied, stating that they are not willing to lift the ban. Ms. Reynolds commented that she does not want her daughter to attend programs of the BCRC, further stating that they are involved with Edgemere-Sparrows Point Recreation Council, but they do not have a dance program. Isaac Manjoe asked Ms. Masters [president of the BCRC and dance program chair] what she thinks the best solution is to resolve this situation. Ms. Masters stated that BCRC offered to allow the daughter to attend things, just not with Ms. Reynolds. Ms. Reynolds stated that she was only aware of one accusation until she read the emails recently provided. Mr. Johns stated that the Board cannot vote due to lack of a quorum, but will discuss at the next board meeting, noting that there are no events occurring in between meeting dates. Ms. Jackson commented that an indefinite ban does not seem likely to be upheld with a new board or president, and suggested that Ms. Masters talk to the BCRC board.

### **Comments By Individual Citizens:**

Debi Wynn, Baltimore Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association, addressed the Board, referencing the donation by Blue Ocean for a Rosie the Riveter Park, and inquired about the status. Lisa Winters referenced receipt of Ms. Wynn's email, which was sent to the Department email account earlier today, stating that she forwarded to Drew Emmer, Chief of Capital Planning and Development for response. Mr. Johns said that he will also follow up with BCRP staff. Michael Ruby commented that he nor anyone has received any information or answers on this.

Mita Vogel, with Baltimore Youth Cycling (BYC), introduced herself and reported on her interest in things around the County, including redesign. Ms. Vogel stated that BYC holds a very large cycle race at the Ag Center, and also referenced use of Banneker. She reported that she has heard something about potential development for a cycle park, by Diamond Ridge golf course, and is very interested in this. Ms. Vogel stated that it could be beneficial to BCRP to have cycle folks advise, with regards to the project, stating that the group is super interested in helping this move forward in Baltimore County. She stated that she is more than willing to spearhead the effort to create a bike council for Baltimore County. She just needs to know what to do and if the Board would be interested. Mr. Johns referenced the Baltimore County Skateboard Council, commenting that he thinks there is room for a cycling council. Mr. Johns stated that he will follow up with Ms. Vogel to share what needs to be done to become a council, and encouraged her to speak with Bill Felter.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters