

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

COREY JOHNS, CHAIR

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the Woodlawn Community Center. In attendance were Corey Johns, Chair; and board members Brooks Paternotte, Jon Marsalek, Isaac Manjoe, Pat Roddy, Chuck Munzert, Dana Jackson and Desiree Mundell-Collins. Department staff included Bob Smith, Director.

Also in attendance: Jeffrey Budnitz, Lake Roland Nature Council; Michele Dorey and an anonymous individual, Liberty Road Recreation and Parks Council.

Call to Order:

Chair Corey Johns called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Director Bob Smith welcomed all to the Woodlawn Community Center.

Approval of Minutes:

Chuck Munzert motioned to approve the October meeting minutes; Isaac Manjoe seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Comments By Individual Citizens:

An individual who wished to remain anonymous, here before the Board as a volunteer, former employee, and parent of a child with the Before and After Care Program with the Liberty Road Recreation and Parks Council (LRRPC) at Deer Park ESRC, addressed those in attendance regarding the program. They stated that they have seen a lot of change since the pandemic, and further stated that they understand that the child care field has changed. They referenced the number of days school is closed, and the affects this has on the program. The program has to shut down if school is closed; however, the fees have gone up. They referenced the communication to the parents as very vague, with no explanation, and voiced concern that the program is going to completely shut down. Mr. Johns stated that the next step is to determine who made the decision to close the program when school is closed. Mr. Smith stated that he will look into this.

Michele Dorey addressed the Board stating that her issue with Eric Carson, LRRPC President, is his business practices. She does not see the logic with raising the price, nor does she see where the extra money is going. Jon Marsalek asked about the Board looking over the finances and budget for the program.

Jeffrey Budnitz stated that he was pleasantly pleased with the MOU meeting the other night, and his discussion with Mr. Smith earlier in the day. His overarching comment is still the timeline to end of year to get this done (49 days in total, 33 days excluding weekends and holidays).

Director's Comments:

Mr. Smith announced that the administrative centralized staff of the Department are beginning to transfer to the third floor of 305 Washington Avenue, Towson, with others located at Van Buren Lane, in Cockeysville. In

addition, Mr Smith discussed overall staff movement and retirees, and announced the start of the new Community Engagement Officer, this week. Next week, the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks (BCRP) leadership team will begin an annual policy review, and will continue working on posting policies to the website. Further, items going before County Council include MANO, on December 16, and the COVID Memorial Art Project Unveiling is scheduled for November 26 at 10 a.m.

BCRP recently completed the four Open House and Community Listening Sessions last week, and held an All Staff on November 7 at Middle River RAC, covering a lot of different topics. Mr. Smith reported that he received the Capital Requests from the Board, and stated that BCRP will begin reviewing these.

Regarding Reimagining Recreation and Parks, Mr. Smith stated that there have been a number of meetings held since the last board meeting; there is a meeting scheduled next week with Lake Roland, in addition to another meeting with the recreation council group. Mr. Smith stated that there has been positive movement on the MOUs, with Mr. Budnitz further commenting that there has been massive improvement on the MOUs. Brooks Paternotte recognized Mr. Johns for the incredible amount of work he has put into this.

Board Member Activities:

Dana Jackson referenced the Middle River football issue, and concerns with the gentleman involved. Lengthy discussion ensued. Board members then discussed the situation regarding Deborah Green and Turner Station Recreation Council, with a focus on the disruptive behavior at hand. It was stated that if Maurisha Graves-White asks Ms. Green to leave the meeting, BCRP staff will be made aware.

Mr. Marsalek thanked Mr. Smith for looking into the Sparks baseball field, and asked if it could be used. Mr. Smith replied, stating that he understands that it could be used for spring ball. Further, Mr. Marsalek stated that a couple of people have reached out to him with regards to issues with coaches, and he questioned the BCRP Incident Report. In regards to one particular situation, Mr. Marsalek stated that the parent wants the issue on record. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Marsalek to send this information his way. In addition, a parent reached out regarding the MPRP and wanted to make sure the Director has checked to ensure BCRP property is not implicated. Pat Roddy stated that the County Executive has already drafted a letter regarding his position. Further, Mr. Roddy stated that he does not believe any County property is implicated. Lastly, there was discussion regarding staff movement and contacting the appropriate person. Mr. Smith replied, stating that we will send the Board a staff roster.

Desiree Mundell-Collins announced that the ancestors involved in the erection of the Halethorpe Recreation Center are interested in joining the 100 Year Anniversary committee. Mr. Smith stated that he would be happy to have them on board. Ms. Mundell-Collins stated that she already put them in touch with Danielle Bassett.

Mr. Manjoe referenced the issue emailed to the Board regarding the LRRPC Before and After Care Program, stating that he was surprised at all the comments offered by board members, without even hearing from the council president. He requested, moving forward, board members listen and seek out the other side of the story, before commenting on the matter. In addition, Mr. Manjoe received the email from Reisterstown, with their MOU comments.

Mr. Roddy stated that he has a follow up to the adult fee delineation. He has received mixed reaction, with some wanting to run on a seasonal fee basis and others on an annual fee basis. Mr. Johns sent an email to all presidents after the previous meeting and only received a few replies. He asked who he should contact with questions about the adult program fee schedules, as they continue to hear back from councils. Mr. Smith said they should be directed to him. Mr. Johns will email Mr. Smith with what he has heard, and in the future, will loop in the new Community Engagement Officer as well.

Mr. Paternotte reported that he was working with Ms. Bassett, collecting nominations from board members. In addition, he thanked Lake Roland for their submission to Capital Requests. Lastly, Mr. Brooks reported that he is working with Mr. Johns on the nature council MOUs.

Chair's Report:

Mr. Johns mentioned the Rosedale RAC opening, and said it is the most amazing building in Baltimore County. He encouraged all to visit this site. In addition, Mr. Johns reported that he has been working with councils on various matters, and partaking in many MOU discussions. Mr. Johns went on to share that BCRP staff member Amy Vagnoni is fantastic! Lastly, he questioned the future of Golden Ring. Mr. Smith replied, stating that they are not taking out the fields.

Committee Reports:

Governance Committee: Nothing to report. Mr. Johns stated that they are waiting on the MOU.

Bylaws Committee: Mr. Manjoe reported that they are meeting on Friday to discuss Sparrows Point and Turner Station.

Financial Review Committee: Nothing to report.

Legislative Committee: Nothing to report.

New Business:

Regarding *Board Bylaws*, Mr. Johns apologized if board members did not get the proposed changes, and went on to discuss these. See item under "Action."

Regarding the *Nominating Committee Report*, Mr. Johns announced that nominations are as follows: Ms. Jackson and Phil Davis for Chair, and Mr. Johns and Mr. Davis for Vice Chair. However, Mr. Davis is not eligible for Vice Chair. Mr. Johns thanked all for making their nominations.

Action:

Mr. Marsalek motioned to approve the changes to the Board Bylaws, proposed by Mr. Johns; Mr. Paternotte seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Munzert moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Manjoe seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters