

Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
April 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The Annual Dinner Meeting between the Board of Recreation and Parks and Board of Education Membership was held on Monday, April 26, 2010, at 6:00pm at the Greenwood Administration Building. The monthly meeting of the Board of Recreation and Parks was held immediately following, at 7:00pm. In attendance were Chairman Steve Verch and Vice Chairman Wayne Definbaugh; board members David Smylie, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks, Mike Weber and Jacob Smith. Staff included Bud Chrismer, deputy director; Marty Stoelting, chief, Recreation Services and Mike Spencer, president, BCARC.

Approval of Minutes:

Jacob Smith motioned to approve the March board meeting minutes, Dunbar Brooks seconded and all were in favor.

Announcements:

Althea Page attended the Marshy Point Nature Center Spring Festival and reported that it was a very nice event with a great band and many activities for children.

Wayne Definbaugh informed board members that the Overlea Recreation Council Opening Day is May 1. Anyone interested in attending should call Sue Cormack.

Mr. Brooks informed the board that the Turner Station Recreation Council Opening Day Parade is May 1 and he will be attending.

Old Business:

In regards to the Woodlawn Recreation Council, David Smylie stated that he has no updates at this time.

Mr. Brooks informed the board that he has the telephone numbers to contact the individuals involved in the issue brought before the board regarding the Sparrows Point Recreation Council. Mr. Brooks is hopeful that they will attend the next board meeting, allowing board members to hear both sides of the story. Further discussion ensued regarding this issue.

Mike Weber discussed bringing education to the councils through council seminars. Topics to be discussed included background checks, insurance liability, money handling skills and miscellaneous topics such as how to run a meeting, capital projects and maintenance. Mr. Weber stated that they hope to secure a facility by late May and would have letters sent immediately following. Mr. Weber stated that they are looking for someone with insurance background, financial background and someone to discuss background checks. Representatives from both the department and the board would attend the seminars to monitor and ensure they are running smoothly. Mr. Weber further stated that we would be looking for feedback after the seminars and stated that if the overall response were positive, we would continue this practice.

Mr. Smylie inquired about background checks asking if County police performed these. Marty Stoelting responded stating there are no background checks. Mr. Smylie responded stating that while attending a Randallstown Community Center Advisory Board meeting, Ella White Campbell voiced her concern regarding this issue and stated that she was outraged that the department does not have a policy to perform background checks. Ms. Stoelting responded stating that the department emphasizes, "You Care so be Aware", where the parents are the first line of defense. Ms. Stoelting reported that a soccer coach at a Catholic school was recently arrested and a background check had been performed. Unfortunately, we don't have enough money to do this for the thousands of volunteers within each recreation council however; each council may choose to do this, providing they have the funding. Ms. Stoelting stated that she understands the concern but further stated that the Law Office may disagree that this is the responsibility of the department given the councils are a separate entity.

Mr. Weber stated that the seminars would be beneficial in getting information out to the councils. Mr. Smith responded stating that even if the background checks can't be done by the County, by way of the seminars, we can notify councils, letting them know that if they elect to do so, there are resources available. Mr. Smylie stated that the "You Care so be Aware" initiative should be reiterated at this time.

Mr. Weber informed board members that the PTA package would circulate soon.

In regards to the request to honor Vicki Gentile, Mike Milani was to contact the recreation council to find out how they wished to honor her. Mr. Milani was not in attendance.

Mike Spencer addressed the board regarding the proposed by-laws for the BCARC. Board members had a chance to review the by-laws prior to the meeting and only had one concern regarding the language of Article 3 Section 3: Other Agents and Employees. They had concern with using the term "holding office" and "compensation" together. After some discussion with board members and Mr. Spencer, Chairman Steve Verch proposed the language for one line to be added to the existing text.

Mr. Spencer informed board members about the grand opening of the Ag Center scheduled for late September and encouraged all to attend.

New Business:

Mr. Verch informed board members that he has just signed the MOU between CCBC, BCPS and Recreation and Parks. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer discussed reimbursement from the State and stated that the MOU was necessary for reimbursement.

The MOU would entail a planning committee, which would include Bobby Smith, community supervisor II, Rosedale Recreation Office; the athletic administrator from CCBC and a member of facilities from BCPS. This committee would meet twice a year and would establish the schedule; the document establishes priority for field use. The MOU was circulated for board members to review. Ms. Page inquired about the maintenance of the artificial turf fields. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that the department has money in the budget for this. Mr. Chrismer further stated that if people within the council's feel that things are not working, they need to let us know. Mr. Smith inquired about the process for scheduling for the other turf fields. Ms. Stoelting stated that

staff tries to have the schedule three months in advance. Mr. Smith stated that he did not want a situation to occur where someone was booking very far in advance, ensuring they would obtain use because the date was available.

Ms. Page, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported to the board that there were two members nominated for chairman and vice chairman and they happened to be the same two people. Wayne Definbaugh was nominated for chairman and David Smylie was nominated for vice chairman.

Board members received a request from the Towsontowne Recreation Council to honor Bruce Winand, council vice president, who passed away unexpectedly. The council would like to name a ball diamond at Riderwood Elementary School Recreation Center in honor of Mr. Winand.

Mr. Definbaugh thanked Mr. Verch for serving as chairman and welcomed him as a member of the board. On behalf of the board, Mr. Definbaugh voiced his appreciation to Mr. Verch for all that he did as chair. Mr. Verch thanked the board for teaching him how to work with other people. Mr. Verch further stated that over the course of two years the board has spotted many issues and requests that the board continue to bring these issues to a resolution.

Action:

Jacob Smith motioned to accept the BCARC By-Laws on the condition that the change they requested be made, Althea Page seconded and all were in favor.

Dunbar Brooks motioned to approve the nominations from the Nominating Committee, Jacob Smith seconded and all were in favor.

Steve Verch motioned to approve the request to name a ball diamond at Riderwood Elementary School Recreation Center in honor of Bruce Winand, Althea Page seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Jacob Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Mike Weber seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter