

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WAYNE DEFINBAUGH, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held immediately following the Annual Dinner Meeting with the County Council Membership, on Monday, March 21, 2011, at 6:22 p.m. in Room 118 of the Old Courthouse located at 400 Washington Avenue, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Wayne Definbaugh, chairman; board members Mike Milani, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks, Mike Weber and Jacob Smith. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Bud Chrismer, deputy director; Marty Stoelting, chief, Recreation Services and Stephanie Murphy, regional coordinator. Also in attendance were Brian Friedlander, president, Greater Pikesville Recreation Council; Kris Waterfield, president, Arbutus Recreation Council and Monika Campbell, vice president, Arbutus Recreation Council.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Dunbar Brooks motioned to approve the February board meeting minutes, Althea Page seconded and all were in favor.

### **Announcements:**

Chairman Wayne Definbaugh reminded board members of the upcoming Recreation Conference scheduled March 29 at 7 p.m.

### **Old Business:**

Mr. Definbaugh asked Stephanie Murphy to give board members an update on the football program complaint. Ms. Murphy informed the board that the proposal was presented to Lansdowne and they have accepted. Ms. Murphy stated the council is very happy to have them on board.

In regards to the request for additional resources in Kingsville, Mr. Definbaugh stated that he would continue bringing this up.

Mr. Definbaugh stated that in regards to volunteer liability, Greg Gaskins is working on this; we will come back to this.

Mike Weber inquired about the timeline for obtaining definitive answers to the boards questions in regards to their authority. Director Barry F. Williams responded stating that he was hoping to have these answers at the April meeting. Mr. Williams stated that this will be a process as he works with the board but understands that they need to have something clear to put out there. Mr. Williams stated that once we have clarification, it is essential to educate the councils. By the fall, Mr. Williams stated he is hopeful that expectations [rules and procedures] are shared and are being implemented. Mr. Brooks agrees but stated that some recreation councils may need assistance.

Mr. Definbaugh discussed certification and stated that once every three years is not enough. Jacob Smith responded stating that this should be done every year and then checked at random. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the board should visit and introduce themselves to the councils. Discussion regarding transparency ensued amongst board members. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer stated that the department provides facilities not policing. Discussion regarding the board's role and the department's role ensued. Mr. Smith stated that the ultimate responsibility lies with the recreation council executive board. Mr. Weber referenced the PTA's as being similar to recreation councils. Mr. Brooks stated that PTA's have oversight from the state PTA and county PTA. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the first step is the board's authority and the second is re-defining this to make sure of best practices. Mr. Williams stated that the board should be careful of what they ask for and to make sure they can do it, further stating to keep it simple, manageable and realistic.

### **New Business:**

Brian Friedlander came before the board to request their assistance. Mr. Friedlander stated that he has read the minutes from previous board meetings. Mr. Friedlander stated that the Greater Pikesville Recreation Council is in its second full year and doing great; programs are growing and the bank account is, too. Mr. Friedlander stated that he is a stickler for following the rules, as he knows from past experience in his community that this is very important. Mr. Friedlander is requesting the board send out a policy that requires absolute compliance from all councils, compliance with the law, in order to remain certified.

Mr. Friedlander stated that he has concerns in regards to the way in which councils are paying refs/umps. Mr. Friedlander further stated that this should start by having councils ask for social security numbers, as you are required to do. Mr. Friedlander is concerned that if his council is doing this and other councils are not, he is afraid he will be black balled. Mr. Friedlander would like the board to let all councils know that they are to comply with state and federal laws, which would include the way payment is made to refs/umps. Mr. Friedlander mentioned the situation in Howard County stating that they were being audited. In this situation, they were told to operate in a different way than they have been. Mr. Friedlander stated that in every case, the president and treasurer are the first to be looked at. Mr. Friedlander is here to make a stand that the board requires all councils to follow suit, to follow the law.

Mr. Definbaugh responded to Mr. Friedlander stating that he had dealt with the issue in the Parkville area. Mr. Definbaugh stated that most of the refs for soccer go through Ref Pay. A budget is put into this system and each ref/ump has to use this; the system sends out 1099 forms. This system is utilized around the county. Mr. Brooks stated that the board has authority in many different ways, as making policy dictated to councils; we have subjective authority and are looking to get things clarified. Mr. Friedlander stated that from the very beginning he needed a manual for the council; this would be very helpful. Mike Milani responded stating that if you are an independent organization you must comply with state and federal laws. Mr. Friedlander stated that in order for a council to remain certified, the board should check to make sure councils are abiding by these laws. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the board would bring this up to the county attorney as part of the board's authority. Mr. Milani stated that all councils must be non-profit, independent organizations. Mr. Williams stated that all councils are non-profit but not all of them are 501(c)(3). Marty Stoelting stated that the vast majority is 501(c)(3); she is to find out which of the councils are not.

In regards to the Arbutus Boys Basketball concerns, Mr. Definbaugh informed board members that Coach Gary Corn was invited to attend this evening's meeting to present his concerns to the board. Mr. Corn emailed his concerns prior to (included in board members folders) and was looking for board members to intervene; Mr. Corn did not show.

In addition to the information provided by Mr. Corn, Kris Waterfield and Monika Campbell were in attendance to provide the council's point of view. Board members reviewed information provided by Mr. Corn and discussed the situation and surrounding issues with Ms. Waterfield, Ms. Campbell and Ms. Murphy. Ultimately, Mr. Corn was suspended prior to the end of the season. Mr. Corn did not appeal his suspension to the Executive Board but instead, contacted the Board of Recreation and Parks.

Mr. Milani spoke with George Kendrick, a long time volunteer in Arbutus, who stated that the council acted accordingly, giving Mr. Corn a fair chance to voice his opinion. Mr. Milani believes the board should support the council and the decision made, stating the council acted accordingly. Mr. Smith stated that this is a recreation council issue; the only reason to act is if the local council has violated by-laws or civil rights. Mr. Smith stated that the board should support the council. Mr. Brooks agreed stating that the board would step in if councils were not treating people properly. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Definbaugh discussed the importance of advocating for POS. MRPA is requesting the board and others talk to elected officials; department staff cannot do this. Mr. Definbaugh stated that we need money for POS; the budget is slim and the government is taking these funds. Mr. Williams responded stating that the government was going to take the transfer tax and put it in the general fund but now Mr. Williams does not believe this is going to happen.

### **Director's Comments:**

Mr. Williams stated that he heard the County Executive this evening in terms of our charge, stating that there have been lots of discussion with recreation staff and the school system and he understands the issue out there. The County Executive has spoken with Dr. Joe A. Hairston who stated that he is committed to a good relationship with recreation and parks. In addition, Mr. Williams reported that the County Executive stated that it seemed that Dr. Hairston was unaware of some issues those folks not part of the school system are dealing with.

Mr. Williams stated that he would be experiencing his first spring with grass cutting and the issues that are know to arise. Mr. Williams hears concerns from those in different parts of the county; those voicing these concerns feel it's legitimate and Mr. Williams stated that they all deserve a response in a timely manner. This will mean that these issues will be less likely to deal with at the board level.

Mr. Williams stated that he hopes everyone was able to meet Mr. Gaskins. Mr. Gaskins will be speaking on March 29 and will be working with us on defining the role of the board. Mr. Williams stated that this will give us more strength and further stated that it is important that the councils know what the board's role is.

**Action:**

Mr. Smith motioned to support the actions taken by the Arbutus Recreation Council, Mr. Milani seconded and all were in favor.

At 7:05 p.m., Mr. Brooks motioned to go into a closed session to discuss a matter regarding the Woodlawn Recreation Council, Mr. Weber seconded and all were in favor. At 7:27 p.m., the board came out of the closed session.

Mr. Smith motioned to send a letter to the Woodlawn Recreation Council president stating the council must report theft to the proper authorities, Mr. Brooks seconded and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Milani seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter