

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WAYNE DEFINBAUGH, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at 6:53 p.m., at Marshy Point Nature Center located at 7130 Marshy Point Road, Baltimore, Maryland. In attendance were David Smylie, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks and Mike Weber. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bud Chrismer, deputy director.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike Milani motioned to approve the April board meeting minutes, Althea Page seconded, and all were in favor.

Announcements:

Dunbar Brooks reported that he attended the Turner Station Opening Day Parade last Saturday.

Ms. Page stated that she frequently visits Eastern Regional Park in the evenings and it is always hopping! Mr. Milani commented how nice it is to see these new facilities and all the activity at these sites.

Old Business:

Prior to the start of the meeting, board members reviewed the memo in their folders from Mike Field. Director Barry F. Williams discussed the motion made by the board at the last meeting [*Mr. Weber motioned to require, as part of the certification process, that every council have D&O Insurance, obtain 501(c)(3) status and become incorporated, as well as require an annual financial review. All councils must be in compliance by July 1, 2012. Dunbar Brooks seconded, and all were in favor.*] and spoke of what now has to happen. Mr. Williams stated that this memo is no longer a draft; Mr. Williams would like to get this out tomorrow, electronically, with a cover letter, to all recreation council presidents. In this regard, Mr. Williams informed the board that the Baltimore County Council membership would receive the correspondence sent to council presidents. Mr. Williams reported that Fred Homan plans to meet with a few of the recreation council presidents and would like Mike Weber to attend as well. Mr. Weber responded that he would get back to Mr. Williams on this as he is currently scheduled for jury duty.

Mr. Williams stated that there were about 85-100 people in attendance at the recreation council presidents meeting on March 29, and only a few were vocal with their opinions. Mr. Williams stated that because the rest of the attendees were quiet, you did not know how they felt. With that said, Mr. Williams stated that he thinks it would be more beneficial to meet with council presidents in smaller groups, one meeting for each region.

Mr. Williams encouraged the board to figure out when they would be available to hold these small meetings and further stated that between the two of them, he and Deputy Director Bud Chrismer plan to attend. Mr. Milani responded stating that the key is consistency. Discussion ensued regarding questions board members had regarding the memo from Mr. Field. Mr. Weber stated that he wants to make it clear that the board wants to be proactive and further stated he would like the tone to be that the county "has their back." Mr. Brooks discussed due process, the appeal process, and the action of the Law Office. Mr. Brooks further discussed the importance of following the chain of command. Mr. Williams responded stating that board members should have a flow chart at the meetings to show the steps of action, to include hearing both sides, and should also educate councils on due process and proper procedure. In addition, the board should roll out what it is they are going to request by July 1, 2012, at these regional meetings.

Vice Chairman David Smylie discussed getting these meetings established and inquired about how quick the department could put talking points together to assure that everyone is on the same page. Mr. Williams responded stating that we could get these together by next week and further stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to have a meeting to review this. This meeting is scheduled for May 25. In addition, board members are to decide how to hold/schedule the regional meetings. Board members are not expected to attend every meeting; these will be divided equally among members. Mr. Williams expressed the importance of having each council president attend the regional meetings stating that they have a vested interest in this. These meetings should be scheduled in June since most recreation councils do not meet in July or August. After some discussion, it was determined to request council presidents to attend along with only one other from their council. The dates for the regional meetings would be determined at the May 25 meeting.

Mr. Weber reported that the 1099 issue that created a big bookkeeping concern for non-profits has been repealed; however, the increased penalties were not repealed indicating that the IRS is looking closely at this issue. Mr. Weber will write an article on the change in 1099 reporting that can be used to distribute the information to the recreation councils. The old law now remains in effect and will not change the fact that umpires still need to receive a 1099 if they receive more than \$600 in a calendar year.

In addition, Mr. Weber informed the board that he would like to start a roving audit committee and requested the authority to speak with Mike Pierce to begin this. Mr. Weber stated that he would like board members to step up and get involved. Mr. Smylie responded stating that he would volunteer to help once standards were established. Mr. Weber stated that he wants to start the process so the board could roll this out in the fall. Mr. Brooks and Ms. Page volunteered to help.

Mr. Weber reported that Chairman Wayne Definbaugh has had experience at NERRC with umpires and 1099's and could tell you the right way to do this. Mr. Weber further stated that he knows that this has not been done this way by all. Mr. Weber suggested going back to various organizations and further stated he would like to ask Liberty Road and Lutherville recreation councils about their experience stating it sounds like it is a fairly easy process. Mr. Weber brought up the concern of the Greater Pikesville Recreation Council and further stated that we could put pressure on all councils to do this the right way. Mr. Smylie stated that this might be a big task. Mr. Weber responded stating they need to get the treasurer on board to issue one check instead of 15. Mr. Weber invites any input the board has.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams reported that the department's budget hearing was held yesterday. Mr. Williams further stated that this went very well. Mr. Williams stated that he believes the County Council feels pretty good about the department. They want to know what to tell folks given we do not have any money. Mr. Williams stated that if someone has an idea they should develop this and remain prepared in the event we do obtain funds.

Mr. Williams discussed the PAL Centers and stated that they will remain as they are for one year. It may make sense for them to become regional centers, and Mr. Williams stated they would work with the PAL board. Mr. Williams stated that he had spoken to PJ Widerman, chairman, before PAL was officially coming over. The transfer is scheduled for June 1 and at this point, the officers will be back on the street. Mr. Williams reported that he spoke to Beahta Davis who stated that these programs are less than they could be and further stated that we could do better. Mr. Williams stated that the facilities are in good condition with the exception of Hillendale; this is the oldest building, and it leaks. In addition, Mr. Williams informed board members that there was only one adult at Woodmoor, something that is bothersome to him. Mr. Williams stated that we would be hiring a part time leader and two coordinators as soon as we get the green light. Mr. Williams stated that we would try not to have an interruption of service during this transition. There will be more to follow.

Mr. Williams informed the board that he spoke to the Law Office in regards to their authority, and the Law Office stated that the board has the ability to certify/de-certify councils. All were in agreement with this.

Action:

Mr. Weber motioned to have the document from Mr. Field sent to all council presidents, Mr. Brooks seconded, and all were in favor.

A meeting was scheduled for May 25 at 3:00 p.m. to review talking points for the upcoming regional meetings. This meeting will be held in the board room at Recreation and Parks headquarters.

Mr. Milani motioned to give authority to Mr. Weber to proceed with starting a roving audit committee, Mr. Brooks seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Brooks moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Milani seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter