

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WAYNE DEFINBAUGH, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at 6:07 p.m., at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Wayne Definbaugh, chairman; David Smylie, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Eric Van den Beemt, Mike Weber and Jacob Smith. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bud Chrimer, deputy director. Tim Miller, president of the Reisterstown Recreation Council was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Due to technical difficulties at the last board meeting, another vote was taken for record purposes. Mike Weber motioned to approve the October board meeting minutes, Eric Van den Beemt seconded, and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Wayne Definbaugh started off the meeting by wishing everyone a happy new year. Mr. Definbaugh updated everyone on Dunbar Brooks' condition and asked everyone to keep him in his or her thoughts and prayers. Director Barry F. Williams replied stating that he would like to send something to Mr. Brooks.

Mr. Definbaugh reported that, at the November meeting, Mr. Williams discussed the importance of responding to Lisa Liupaeter regarding whether or not you are able to attend a meeting. There is concern about having a quorum; there is no reason to waste anyone's time. Mr. Definbaugh discussed his goals and encouraged board members to submit their goals.

New Business

Tim Miller, president of the Reisterstown Recreation Council, addressed the board regarding the new permit process with the schools. Mr. Miller stated that he is aware there is training going on and that the process has changed to allow for more transparency and the ability to better process permits. With that said, Mr. Miller stated that, according to Bill Wingard, permits are given on a first come first serve basis, as opposed to the Joint Use Agreement, forcing the recreation councils to compete with for-profit groups. In addition, Mr. Miller stated that permits are given out up to 18 months in advance, which makes him feel like in order to secure a facility permit he would need to submit permit applications for the entire 18 months, even if he is unable to determine what he would need this far in advance. Mike Milani commented that this presents a problem. He thought that no public land could be used for private gain. Mr. Miller stated that this is what he had been told by three staff members. Mr. Miller stated that if there is no hierarchy then there is no Joint Use Agreement.

Mr. Williams stated that Deputy Director Bud Chrismer attended the training so we would have a better understanding. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that other groups and organizations come after recreation and parks, either profit or non-profit. If a conflict exists the order in which permits would be assigned is as follows:

- BCPS curricular or extra curricular activities,
- PTSA sponsored activities,
- Recreation and Parks,
- CCBC,
- Child Care,
- Other county, state, federal agencies
- Other application users

Mr. Van den Beemt replied stating that it appears anyone can apply 18 months in advance, but if a recreation council program applies, then everyone gets bumped. Mr. Williams stated that the Board of Education received a lot of heat regarding the use of facilities. It was always his understanding that there is a priority order. Mr. Williams informed the board that department staff has a meeting tomorrow with folks from BCPS and we would ask about this at this time. Mr. Chrismer stated that this is based on the school calendar year. The schools submit their applications and then it is open to everyone else. Mr. Chrismer stated that a red flag would go up if there were a time when we historically had the facility. This year, everything will be fresh and a new program might have an issue, but the following year they'll be on board. Jacob Smith stated that there should be a cut off date. This should start at the top of the hierarchy and permits should be filed accordingly. Mr. Chrismer stated that the principal receives the application first and then the facilities division signs off on this. There is an appeal process if the principal denies the request. Mr. Van den Beemt stated that as long as you submit your permit 45 days prior to the start of your program, you would be fine.

Mr. Miller stated that teachers are no longer staying after school to coach. Coaches are coming from other places and might not be able to get to the school right away, thus taking a later time slot, which had been used by recreation programs in the past. Mr. Miller also mentioned the concern of folks submitting applications for facilities outside their jurisdiction.

Mr. Weber requested the recreation councils be made aware of any changes to the guidelines. Mr. Williams plans to ask Mr. Chrismer when we can share this information and to request one sheet of information, not a packet. Mr. Williams stated that he believes the Board of Education asked for changes, but he doubts there was much input allowed.

Mr. Weber brought up Rule 1300, access for all. This was about craft fairs being denied and the public being denied access for legitimate uses. Mr. Weber stated that if this results in our constituents not being served, then we have to stand up for this.

Mr. Williams stated that he, Mr. Chrismer and Marty Stoelting met with several principals and discussed various topics. Mr. Williams stated that he wants a master schedule so one can see where all programs are at all times. Mr. Weber stated that if the Joint Use Agreement is out the window, then this is not correct. Mr. Williams responded that Mr. Miller indicated his source and we need to remedy this. Mr. Weber asked Mr. Miller to give the board some time to get this straight. Mr.

Weber then told Mr. Miller that he appreciated him bringing this to the board. Mr. Miller responded stating that Mr. Wingard is an implementer and he is the one who stated first come first serve. Mr. Van den Beemt stated that it would be helpful if Mr. Chrismer emailed board members with this information.

Mr. Definbaugh addressed the board in regards to the Gray Charles Recreation Council issues. Mr. Brooks had been looking into this and, in his absence, Mr. Definbaugh is taking the lead. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the council did not comply with Mr. Brooks' verbal request for information. Mr. Definbaugh spoke to Neil Magness and was informed that the council defaulted on their checking account, the council was sued, and a lien was put on their account. The board never heard about this. All thefts and law suits involving a council need to be reported to the board. Mr. Definbaugh stated that this should be included in the by-laws. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the council is in debt, and the coach made a big issue. This person has a personality issue with the council. This individual plans to attend the council meeting tonight where he will be denied as a member of the council. For the past six months, there has been no quorum at the council meetings, elections have resulted in the same board members, and there is no transparency or good book keeping. In addition, there are no financial records or sign in sheets; we do not know what their financial status is. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the board should request the documents that Mr. Brooks wanted.

Mr. Definbaugh and Mr. Weber will review the information – by-laws and financials. The council only has a couple of programs. Checks from the football program bounced, and the vendor filed a lawsuit resulting in the courts putting a lien on the council's bank account. Mr. Definbaugh brought up the standardization of by-laws to cover something like this. The de-certification of the Pikesville Recreation Council was mentioned. Mr. Weber suggested inviting a council representative to attend the next meeting to hear their side of the story. Mr. Weber informed the board that Althea Page is working on a general set of by-laws for each council to follow. Discussion ensued. Mr. Definbaugh informed board members that he plans to attend the January 29 council meeting to check on this. Vice Chairman David Smylie stated that the board must be specific as to what they are requesting. Mr. Weber responded stating the request should include 990's and annual operating statement. Mr. Definbaugh will work with Ms. Liupaeter on the letter. Mr. Definbaugh will have a set of by-laws at the next meeting.

Mr. Chrismer informed the board that the Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC) would like to present by-laws to the board to become their own recreation council. They would like to come before the board next month. Board members would like this information in advance of the next meeting. Mr. Van den Beemt suggested contacting the council of which the BCSC is currently a part. Mr. Smylie asked Ms. Liupaeter to email him the contact information of the council president so that he could contact him/her.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams informed the board that there has been a major staff reorganization in the department. Our Maintenance Division would be leaving the department and moving under the Office of Budget and Finance, Property Management Division with Building Services, which used to be under Department of Public Works. Mr. Williams stated that we did not plan nor desire this and, at this point, things are still undetermined as to how this will work. All departments will be paring down

and doing things differently. The county was hoping to have 200+ people opt for the retirement incentive; there were 650 people who applied to see their numbers. Mr. Williams discussed the retirement incentive and told board members that he encouraged folks within the department who were eligible to explore this option. There are about 12 people from the department out of approximately 60-70 eligible who plan to retire; Mr. Williams stated that he approved them all. We will lose positions, those that are vacant are gone, and we plan to use lifeguard positions as a trade off. There are a number of offices looking at consolidating, but we are not sure where yet. Mr. Williams stated that plans are “steeped in Jello.” Mr. Williams stated that we would make sure services will continue and nobody will lose their job. We lost 120 people from the Maintenance Division, and Mr. Williams stated that he hopes to keep everyone in Recreation and Parks. Mr. Williams hopes we will know, definitely, the first week in March. Mr. Williams stated that the budget would be much lower as a result of losing our Maintenance Division. Mr. Definbaugh responded stating that the Maintenance Division did an excellent job. This division feeds requests from the community, and Mr. Definbaugh believes it is because of how efficient they are as the reason for the transfer to Property Management. Discussion ensued.

Announcements:

Mr. Definbaugh informed staff that he, Mr. Williams, Mr. Chrismer and Ms. Page all attended the Candy Cane Hunt. There were about 500+ people in attendance. Mr. Definbaugh stated that this was a great event! Mr. Williams agreed. Mr. Williams stated the need to look at what the department does to see if it is feasible; we will no longer be able to do heavily staffed events.

Old Business:

Mr. Weber announced that the Law Office held a seminar regarding 501(c)(3) status, and two councils were represented. Mr. Chrismer stated that West Inverness and Berkshire Recreation Councils were in attendance. There is a recreation council that is not currently in the process of obtaining this status that did not attend. Mr. Chrismer stated that this council might soon be consolidated with another. Mr. Weber informed board members that he offered his card to those in attendance in the event they had any questions.

With regards to the Financial Review Guidelines, Mr. Weber stated that board members have seen the draft document and he has made changes per their comments. Mr. Weber would like to send this document out to all council presidents and set up a meeting with them to discuss. After this, Mr. Weber would like to set up the roaming audit committee. Mr. Williams stated that Ms. Liupaeter would book the hearing room on the 1st floor of the Jefferson Building once we receive a date from the board. Mr. Definbaugh stated he would like this meeting to take place before the next scheduled board meeting on February 8. Mr. Weber will forward the document to Ms. Liupaeter to distribute to council presidents.

Actions:

Mr. Weber motioned to submit a formal request to obtain records of the Gray Charles Recreation Council. Mr. Milani seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Smylie seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter