

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WAYNE DEFINBAUGH, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, February 8, 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, Leslie Monfred, Eric van den Beemt, Mike Weber and Jacob Smith. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bud Chrismer, deputy director. Jim Pettyjohn, Robin Pettyjohn, Jessie Kemp, Amber McMahon and Joseph Ferguson were also in attendance as representatives from the Gray Charles community.

Chairman Wayne Definbaugh opened the meeting and moved directly to "Old Business" to hear from those in attendance regarding the Gray Charles Recreation Council. See below.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Eric van den Beemt motioned to approve the January board meeting minutes, Jacob Smith seconded, and all were in favor.

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

Director Barry F. Williams discussed the department reorganization stating that we hope to know more definitively by the first part of March. Mr. Williams stated that things are changing, and everyone will have to step up.

### **Old Business:**

Jim Pettyjohn, Robin Pettyjohn, Jessie Kemp, Amber McMahon and Joseph Ferguson all came before the board to voice their concerns with the Gray Charles Recreation Council. Mr. Pettyjohn addressed the board and provided documentation to those in attendance. Mr. Pettyjohn stated that he has several issues with the council and was trying to bring the council back. Mr. Pettyjohn stated that the council had disregarded their by-laws on numerous accounts. Mr. Pettyjohn referenced the first document provided, which was an email from Joann Hager stating that she would not be returning as co-chair next year. Mr. Pettyjohn stated that others voiced interest in getting involved, and they were ignored. In addition, Mr. Pettyjohn discovered that there were large unpaid invoices with which nothing was happening. Mr. Pettyjohn, looking to get others involved, sent document number two. This group met and was interrupted by the president and vice president of the council and instructed to disband. Right after this incident, Mr. Pettyjohn received a letter from the council president stating that his services are no longer needed (document 3). Mr. Pettyjohn referenced canceled meetings, over which he voiced concern. The November and December meetings were then rescheduled and attended by many people who were "in attendance to have a battle."

Mr. Pettyjohn stated that he is looking closely at the by-laws and record keeping and formally requested several documents (document 4), with which leadership has not cooperated. Mr. Pettyjohn stated that there are several violations of the council's by-laws and mismanagement of funds. Mr. Pettyjohn received a letter from the council president acknowledging his request (document 5), but the only information he received was attendance records from the past six months.

Mr. Pettyjohn discussed various by-law violations (document 6) including not having a quorum over the last two years or longer and attendance issues with members of the Executive Board, which should result in their dismissal. Mr. Pettyjohn stated that there would be other violations regarding members and elections if they had received further attendance records. In addition, there is also a member of the Executive Board who is paid by the Department of Recreation and Parks, which is a violation as well.

Mr. Ferguson addressed the board and discussed in detail the outstanding bills the council has, in addition to the court ordered injunction to freeze the council's bank account because of this. Mr. Ferguson stated that there has been a lack of proper oversight of local county employees, an accumulation of large amounts of debt in addition to bounced checks, and poor financial reporting to council and local county representatives.

Mr. Definbaugh stated that the board made a formal request for documents from the council. In addition, Dunbar Brooks had made a request prior to this. There was discussion regarding options including de-certification/re-certification, which would raise issues about assets and existing debt, and kids from this council moving on to another council, several of which are within a two-mile radius. Some in attendance voiced the idea of replacing the existing board members while obtaining support from the Board of Recreation and Parks. Mike Weber stated that the board is limited to what they can do until they receive the requested records. Mr. Weber stated that the board would stay on top of this and that they take these allegations seriously. There is protocol in order, and as of July 1, 2012, if the council doesn't follow through, they may not be certified. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Weber volunteered to look at records of the Gray Charles Recreation Council. The board would like to invite the Gray Charles Recreation Council to attend the next board meeting. Mr. van den Beemt asked to be copied on Gray Charles financials.

Mr. Weber informed the board that the financial review meeting held last week went well. In addition to Mr. Weber attending this meeting, Mr. Williams, Deputy Director Bud Chrismer, and Mr. Smith also attended. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Weber did a great job and thinks this was pretty well received. Mr. Weber stated that he is comfortable with the process. Discussion ensued regarding the guidelines and 1099s, and board members stated that everyone is expected to abide by the law.

In regards to the Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC), Mr. Definbaugh stated that the by-laws appear to have been drafted in 2009. Vice Chairman David Smylie stated that he spoke with the president from the Back River Recreation Council who indicated that they are not in favor of the BCSC establishing their own council. The BCSC said nothing to the Back River Recreation Council about this. The BCSC is a large part of this council, which owns all of the equipment. There was no one in attendance from the BCSC. Mr. Williams informed the board that Councilwoman Bevins is in support of this. Mr. Smith inquired about why the BCSC wants to become their own council. Mr. Smylie responded stating that he would ask about this. Mr. van den Beemt stated that we don't want to create another entity unless we know that they can't exist in the current entity. Mr. Williams

stated that the board should obtain more information. Mr. Chrismer stated that he would provide Mr. Smylie with the contact information for Bill Fannon, chair of the BCSC.

The board discussed the election of officers, and Mr. Definbaugh appointed a nominating committee.

Mr. Smith inquired about the permit process and what the outcome was after Mr. Chrismer met with BCPS. Mr. Williams stated that Marty Stoelting sent an email out about this and he thought the board was copied. Mr. Williams stated that essentially nothing really changed regarding priority for the councils. Mr. Chrismer has a meeting tomorrow with BCPS. Mr. Chrismer stated that it was discussed at the quarterly meeting with BCPS and was addressed by the "higher-ups." Mr. Chrismer stated that there is a window in which the councils can submit their permits before this is open to the public. This will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow. Discussion ensued. Mr. Williams stated that the board has a meeting in April with Board of Education, and although he hopes that everything will be worked out by then, if there are a few bugs, this can be discussed then. Those in attendance discussed a centralized schedule and the benefits to this.

**Actions:**

Mr. Definbaugh to submit a formal request to invite the Gray Charles Recreation Council to attend the next board meeting in March.

Mr. Definbaugh appointed Mr. Smith, Leslie Monfred and Mike Milani to the nominating committee.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Weber seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter