

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DAVID SMYLIE, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at 6:15 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Mike Weber, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Eric van den Beemt, Althea Page, Wayne Definbaugh and Dunbar Brooks. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bud Chrismer, deputy director. Jim Pettyjohn, former Gray Charles Recreation Council volunteer and Brian Friedlander, president, Greater Pikesville Recreation Council were also in attendance.

Vice Chairman Mike Weber began the meeting by welcoming Jim Pettyjohn and moving directly to "Comments by Individual Citizens" (see below). After hearing Mr. Pettyjohn, the board discussed drafting a letter in response to Mr. Pettyjohn's email. Eric van den Beemt volunteered.

Approval of Minutes:

Wayne Definbaugh motioned to approve the April board meeting minutes, Dunbar Brooks seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business:

Mike Milani informed board members that Woodlawn High School was partnering with a youth football program, which would ultimately compete with the local recreation program. Director Barry F. Williams responded stating that this would involve football in addition to a lot of mentoring. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer stated that he forwarded the flyer to Bill Wingard. The flyer indicates a \$250 charge, and there is no mention of mentoring. Mr. Milani stated that the Woodlawn Recreation Council football program is not happy. This gentleman was told years ago that his best bet would be to partner with the recreation council. Mr. Milani further stated that if schools can start their own programs then there would be no need for recreation programs. Leslie Monfred replied stating that this seems like it would set a very dangerous precedent. Mr. Milani stated that the Catonsville Recreation Council lacrosse program was bumped because of this "school" program. The board requested to remain informed on this matter. Mr. Williams agreed.

Brian Friedlander addressed the board regarding a recent issue that has arisen in his council. Mr. Friedlander stated that the Board of Education made the decision to take one of their facilities [a trailer purchased by Recreation and Parks] that they operate pre-school out of at Summit Park Elementary School. This is a wonderful program that employs three people and is sold out for the next year. Mr. Friedlander is requesting the boards' help in getting Board of Education to think otherwise. Board of Education wants them out for this coming year; Mr. Chrismer was able to get a year reprieve to hopefully get this resolved. Mr. Chrismer stated that there is not enough room at the school due to overcrowding, and there is nowhere to place another trailer. Mr. Chrismer asked for another option to relocate this trailer. Once Board of Education was aware that the program was

booked already, they gave the one-year reprieve to the council. Mr. Friedlander stated that he was unaware that there was no place to put another trailer. Mr. Williams responded stating that the department needs to gather all the information; he heard this was a temporary fix and that Board of Education had the intention of giving the trailer back to the council. Ms. Monfred inquired about the possibility of the council taking the trailer. Mr. Williams suggested the reasonable alternative that Board of Education provides an adequate optional spot for the program. Ms. Monfred requested that the department keep the board informed on this issue.

In regards to Patapsco Neck-Norwood, Mr. Definbaugh stated that he has nothing to report.

Mr. Milani mentioned the Lansdowne Recreation Council Pom-Pom program and stated that there is a financial issue. He will gather more information and forward to the board. With that said, the board then discussed standard operating procedures.

Mr. van den Beemt mentioned Bryan Sears' request regarding financial disclosures and brief discussion ensued.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Williams informed the board that he met with the County Council regarding the budget, further stating that this went well, and there are to be no cuts. Mr. Williams stated that he was pleased that council members complemented him regarding the things going on with Recreation and Parks.

Old Business:

In regards to financial reviews, Mr. Weber stated that the information was sent out and he has received one email; he is waiting to see the response.

Mr. Definbaugh informed board members that the Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC) plans to attend the June board meeting. Mr. Definbaugh stated that he recently ran into a BCSC board member and was told that they have not yet spoken to the recreation council. Mr. Definbaugh told them they would have to do so. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the BCSC pays the council approximately \$800 a year as an assessment fee. Althea Page stated that she spoke to John Markely, vice president, BCSC and he stated that he plans to attend the upcoming recreation council meeting. Ms. Page indicated that the BCSC has very little interaction with the recreation council and has apparently been operating independently for years. The BCSC does not attend council meetings; however, they do run their money through the council. Ms. Page stated that she would receive an email after the upcoming recreation council meeting. Mr. Milani stated that he doesn't think the board should meet with a program of a recreation council. Ms. Page stated that the BCSC is a very unique program, like the nature centers. Mr. Williams stated that Marshy Point left with the blessing of the local recreation council and further stated that he is supportive, if the council is supportive.

Mr. Weber stated that he was hoping the board would have reviewed the Essex-Stembridge Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws with comments submitted by board members. Mr. Weber stated that he would reach out to Chairman David Smylie about this and suggests that this gets circulated to board members before the next meeting. Mr. Weber would like to vote on this in June.

Mr. Definbaugh provided an update to the board regarding the Gray Charles Recreation Council. Mr. Definbaugh stated that financials are in tax person's hands and the majority of records over the last 10 years are in the hands of the recreation council. Mr. Definbaugh sees them moving forward, but stated there are distractions. For example, the last meeting ended abruptly due to the behavior of some in attendance. Mr. Definbaugh stated that Don Kuklinski plans to attend the next council meeting. Discussion ensued. Mr. Definbaugh informed the board that the recreation council does not have a request from Mr. Pettyjohn for an appeal. Mr. Williams replied stating that Mr. Definbaugh should check with the recreation council, and if this is the case and they have nothing official, inform Mr. Pettyjohn of this and let him know what it is he needs to do. Mr. Definbaugh plans to speak to Katie Carter tomorrow. In addition, Mr. Definbaugh informed board members that the council is almost finished revising their by-laws; he has requested to see them.

Comments by Individual Citizens

Mr. Pettyjohn came before the board to get some answers to his email, which was sent to the Board of Recreation and Parks. He referenced his email and the three questions he would like answered. Mr. Pettyjohn reported that the recreation council told him that his services were no longer needed. At this point, Mr. Brooks interjected stating that there is due process and that this process should be followed, and in this case, it has not yet come before the board. Mr. Pettyjohn responded stating that he has requested a hearing, and this has been ignored. Mr. Weber informed Mr. Pettyjohn that the board was unaware of his appeal. In addition, Mr. Weber stated that the board has addressed the recreation council issue and meeting minutes would be available on the web site in the near future. Mr. Weber stated that he would be happy to look into Mr. Pettyjohn's request to the recreation council for a hearing to see if this has been denied. Mr. Weber stated that if Mr. Pettyjohn wishes to voice his concerns, he would need to get on the agenda for the next meeting, but he must have evidence of an appeal. Mr. Pettyjohn inquired about how he could obtain answers to his questions. Mr. Milani responded stating that the board is looking into this and stated that tonight is not a hearing. Mr. Milani told Mr. Pettyjohn that the board has heard his concerns and will look into the situation.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Definbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Page seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter