

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DAVID SMYLIE, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at 6:16 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were David Smylie, chairman; Mike Weber, vice chairman; board members Leslie Monfred and Eric van den Beemt. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bud Chrismer, deputy director.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Eric van den Beemt motioned to approve the June board meeting minutes, Vice Chairman Mike Weber seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Announcements:**

Mr. Weber informed board members that he recently reviewed the minutes from the past six months to look at things the board needs to do. Mr. Weber stated that he would summarize this information and send via email for board members to review.

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

Director Barry F. Williams announced that he was recently on Comcast talking about the Department of Recreation and Parks and encouraging the community to visit our various parks and facilities. Ellen Kobler from the Office of Communications interviewed Mr. Williams.

In addition, Mr. Williams spoke of a new initiative, Clean Green County, which encourages people who visit the parks to bring an empty bag with them and pick things up (trash) while they are there. Folks are encouraged to then take the bag with them and dispose of it accordingly. Mr. Williams is hopeful that board members will get behind this initiative.

Mr. Williams announced that he would be scheduling regional meetings with the recreation council presidents in September and invited board members to attend.

### **Old Business:**

In regards to communication with the recreation councils about the financial review, Mr. Weber reported that he has received several responses. Lisa Liupaeter will provide Mr. Weber with a list of council presidents, indicating whether or not they have responded. Mr. Weber will notify those who have not responded. Mr. Weber also mentioned the re-certification form and the completion of the financial review team report and stated that the board needed to decide when this should be sent out. Discussion ensued regarding the financial review and the possibility of requiring this to be notarized, something the board may want to do next year.

The board received a letter and an email from the Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC), but nothing has been resolved. Mr. Weber stated that he thinks the board needs to get involved. Mr. van den Beemt stated that he is discouraged that the recreation council has not made contact with the BCSC. Mr. Williams stated that he thinks the board should draft a letter to the recreation council. Mr. Weber agrees stating that the letter should state that the board understands that the BCSC has contacted the recreation council, but has not received any response. Chairman David Smylie stated that he would draft a letter over the weekend and send via email on Monday.

In regards to the Essex-Stembridge Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Smylie stated that he has not seen any changes. Mr. Weber stated that Althea Page would help work on a model copy and further stated that she and Wayne Definbaugh would be best to look these over. Mr. Smylie stated that he would contact Mr. Definbaugh to initiate changes, get feedback from board members and return ASAP.

Mr. van den Beemt stated that it appears that the primary concern with the 1099 issues is with soccer, but he believes this probably does happen in other programs. He attended the Central Maryland Soccer Association Commission meeting and stated that questions arose about whether they were being singled out and how to implement this. However, Mr. van den Beemt stated that they are willing to do this (1099). In addition, Mr. van den Beemt also spoke with the Baltimore Beltway Soccer League and was told they already do this. There is existing software that keeps track of all the referees, the number of games they ref, fees and 1099's. The referees are still paid on the field, but at the end of the year, a 1099 is created based on the information in the system. However, fees are higher because of this. Mr. van den Beemt inquired as to whether the issue is cash or the 1099. Mr. Weber stated that if a recreation council is paying a referee, then they are responsible for making sure a 1099 is filed. We are trying to get out in front of the issue. Mr. Smylie stated that the board present this to all the recreation councils and they can pass this information on. Mr. van den Beemt will check with lacrosse and see what it is they do and present his findings to the board and the department.

### **New Business:**

There is nothing to report in regards to Patapsco Neck-Norwood concerns.

Mr. Weber brought up the scheduling of fields and the issues he and his fellow baseball teammates (the league is part of the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council) are having. The group is having trouble getting fields. They are interested in Fields at Renaissance Park, but were told they are unavailable. Mr. Weber called and was told they would take his information and someone would get back to him; he has not heard from anyone. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer responded stating that the department issues permits for Recreation and Parks sites. With the Joint Use Agreement in effect, the department will submit a facility request for recreation council programs only; outside organizations must go to the school directly and are required to provide insurance and pay for leadership. If people want to play on an empty field, they can; however, if a group shows up with a permit, they would have to leave. As always, children's programs take priority over adults. Mr. Williams stated that he would love to have a master schedule and informed board members that he is looking into this. We have a new IT person looking into this. In addition, Mr. Williams has had his first meeting with the new IT project manager and has communicated the importance of this to the Administrative Officer. A high percentage of scheduling does work out, but he believes this would

resolve issues that have come up in the past. Mr. Chrismer stated that this would be something discussed with BCPS at the Quarterly Meeting tomorrow, to see if they have these issues/need. Mr. Williams stated that he wants this to be a useful tool for all. He emphasized that this would take awhile. Mr. Williams told Mr. Weber that he would be happy to speak to someone in his league.

Discussion took place regarding the vacant positions on the board. Mr. Williams stated that he would talk to Councilwoman Almond again about a student representative.

Mr. van den Beemt stated that best practices for board governance does not allow for e-mail voting. Mr. Smylie stated that voting conference call could be done; this may be good for certain situations.

### **Comments by Individual Citizens:**

Mike Pierce came before the board as a private citizen to discuss his concerns about road sign advertising and smoking. Mr. Pierce first discussed the issue of smoking, specifically at Victory Villa Community Center. He passed out a photo of the main door with a smoking stand located right outside and stated that this should not be allowed. Mr. Pierce thinks something should be done at our stand-alone facilities. He believes the board can consider this and provide recommendation to the department. Mr. Pierce discussed the BCPS no smoking policy and stated that a sign was to be posted at the door, but there is no sign on the door used by the recreation program and he thinks there should be.

Secondly, Mr. Pierce reported that there are recreation programs placing signs along the road, advertising for their program. He has seen code inspectors with these signs, which they have picked up. Mr. Pierce thinks a reminder should go out to all recreation councils that this is illegal. Mr. Smylie responded stating that the board would discuss this.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. van den Beemt moved to adjourn the meeting, Leslie Monfred seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter