

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DAVID SMYLIE, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, September 12, 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 Mike Milani, Leslie Monfred, Eric van den Beemt, Wayne Definbaugh and Dunbar Brooks. 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 July board meeting minutes, Mike Milani seconded, and all were in favor.

Announcements:

Althea Page submitted an official letter of resignation.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman David Smylie discussed the importance of forming committees of about 2-3 people and asked the board to give serious thought to this idea. These committees would allow for focus on each issue/topic.

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams stated that there are a number of unintended benefits to departmental reorganization. In some regional areas, certain department policies were not being implemented and staff new to the area can bring them in alignment with accepted policies. Generally, there has been good staff transitions.

Mr. Williams announced that the Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters is moving to Cockeysville and will be residing in the former Soil Conservation House.

In regards to attending the President's Meetings, Mr. Williams stated that we have only heard from two board members. Mr. Williams informed board members that he has asked staff for the issues in each area and stated that he will be there to listen, answer questions and address concerns. Mr. Smylie encouraged all board members to at least attend the meeting in their respective area.

Mr. Williams requested that Lisa Liupaeter be copied when letters are sent out from the board.

Old Business:

With regards to financial reviews, Vice Chairman Mike Weber stated that there was nothing to report.

After the last board meeting, Mr. Smylie drafted a letter to the Back River Recreation Council president, circulated it to the board and received comments from a few members. Mr. Smylie then sent the letter via email to the council president, with a deadline that was never met. With that said, Mr. Smylie recommended that the board allow the Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC) to move forward. The BCSC will now have to submit their proposed constitution and by-laws to the board for review. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Smylie will send the BCSC an email and will copy the Back River Recreation Council president, only after sending this to the board for review.

After reviewing the proposed Essex-Stembridge Constitution and By-laws, some of the board members still have some questions. Wayne Definbaugh will send board members his concerns via email and welcomes any input. Ms. Liupaeter will email the proposed constitution and by-laws to the board for review and all comments should be submitted to Mr. Definbaugh by Monday, September 17, 2012. Mr. Definbaugh will then send requested changes to Mr. Smylie so that he may forward to Essex-Stembridge by the end of next week.

Mr. Definbaugh stated that all financial records for the Gray Charles Recreation Council through 2010 have been reviewed. The records are in better shape than originally expected. Mr. Definbaugh is still attending their meetings and informed the board that they are focusing on modifying their by-laws.

New Business:

Leslie Monfred inquired about the possibility of producing a one-page document for Greater Pikesville Recreation Council and other councils outlining liability and coverage. Discussion regarding certificate of insurance ensued.

Mr. Definbaugh informed the board that some folks involved with the Patapsco Neck-Norwood (PNN) Recreation Council are requesting to change the name of the council. The checkbook was stolen from the council and money was taken. The State's Attorney has prosecuted the treasurer's son; the president resigned and so did the treasurer. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the council has not filed financial records for many years. The cheer program would like to step-up and become a new council. PNN never obtained their 501(c)(3) status. The board decided to table this issue until the next meeting.

Mr. Weber informed the board of an e-mail recently submitted regarding the Perry Hall/White Marsh Soccer Club from an individual who was relieved from her duties. Mr. Weber spoke to the council president and heard his side of the story. The individual is working through the appeal process. Mr. Weber stated that he would reply to the email and reiterate that the individual should work through the appeal process accordingly. Mr. Smylie will forward the initial email to the board for their information.

Action:

Mr. Milani motioned to allow the Baltimore County Sailing Center to proceed with the process to become a stand-alone recreation council, Mr. van den Beemt seconded and all were in favor.

Comments by Individual Citizens:

Mike Lockett, Brian Weir, Billy Smith, James Hooper, Frank Roberts, Anthony Ranocchia, William Childers and Jack Dott were in attendance from the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council Over 40 Baseball League. The gentlemen came before the board to discuss the issues they have had with field usage. Trying to obtain fields has been a major issue for this group and their program continues to grow. Fields are permitted to other groups, but are not being used. Mr. Weber stated that the board's policy is to make sure every field is used to its maximum ability. Mr. Williams stated that the department has a remedy to their situation and further stated that we are working on obtaining a master schedule. The group voiced their desire for the construction of another 90' diamond in the area and referenced Berkshire Elementary School as a possible site. The recreation council is willing to contribute money towards converting an existing field to a much needed 90' diamond. Discussion ensued amongst board members while Deputy Director Bud Chrismer went with the group to develop a remedy for their field concerns. Mr. Williams stated that the department is moving in the right direction to try and remedy the issues regarding use of fields. Board members discussed a Board of Education liaison and Mr. Williams informed them that they could make this recommendation. Mr. Brooks will send a letter to the Board of Education president as a formal request.

Just prior to the end of the meeting, Mr. Chrismer announced that the gentlemen in attendance from the baseball program were happy!

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Weber moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Definbaugh seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter