

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DAVID SMYLIE, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 6:07 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were David Smylie, chairman; Mike Weber, vice chairman; board members Mike Milani, Eric van den Beemt, Chuck Munzert and Dunbar Brooks. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services and Mike Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice Chairman Mike Weber motioned to approve the December board meeting minutes, Dunbar Brooks seconded, and all were in favor.

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams stated that the Mays Chapel hearing was interesting, although perfunctory. Most of those in attendance were hoping that the hearing could help alter the decision to put a school at the site. However, the department does not weigh in on this decision.

Mr. Williams informed board members that Mike Field spoke to Fred Homan and they have both agreed to meet with the designated group from the board. Mr. Williams will get dates from them.

In regards to Towson Manor Park, Mr. Williams stated that this site was never really a serious consideration for relocation of the fire station. Recently announced was news that the fire station would relocate to where the fueling station is located on Towsontowne Boulevard and Bosley Avenue. As for North Point Government Center (NPGC), this site is fine for programs/scheduling through Spring 2014. Part of the request for proposal is to build a new center to house programs currently at NPGC. There will be a need to replace fields if any are taken away. The county purchased the Antwerpen property in Randallstown and, after making improvements, has imminent plans to move Vehicle Operations Maintenance and the satellite police station to this location. NPGC is the most contentious; Beahta Davis and Chuck Munzert both plan to attend the upcoming President's Meeting.

Mr. Williams discussed the Task Force formed in the quarterly joint meeting with BCPS and explained the purpose of this group. The focus of the Task Force is to discuss and present options for recreation programming and buildings that are impacted by the need for additional classroom space at schools.

The Task Force will meet next week and Mr. Williams stated that he would keep the board apprised.

When schools were built, a percentage of money came from the recreation and parks budget for use of space. Mr. Williams is conducting research and plans to meet with principals to explain joint use. In response, Mike Milani discussed the loss of activity rooms. Ms. Davis conducted some research and found this has been going on for many years. Mr. Williams stated that we are trying to do as much as we are able to do, but unfortunately, much is out of our hands. The Task Force will come into play with issues such as this. Chairman David Smylie stated that these issues could be discussed at the annual dinner meeting with Board of Education.

Old Business:

In regards to the Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC), Mr. Munzert reported that Wayne Definbaugh has spoken with them and asked Mr. Munzert to assist; however, he has not heard back from Mr. Definbaugh. Mr. Munzert stated that the BCSC is almost finished their by-laws but would like someone to look over them. The President's Board recommended that the BCSC get to the Back River Recreation Council a price on replacement and that the council should take it. Mr. Munzert will talk to the group as soon as he knows who is the point of contact.

The Essex-Stembridge Constitution and By-Laws now include all requested changes. Mr. Munzert gave Ms. Davis a copy for her files.

Eric van den Beemt discussed the 1099 issue and stated that he made a few telephone calls. He contacted the Upper Chesapeake Football Association, which has some teams from Baltimore County participating in their league, and they are on board with the change beginning in the fall. Mr. Milani informed Mr. van den Beemt of the Mid Maryland Youth Football League and stated that one program contacted a signing association and is paying them. Mr. Milani stated that, with this group, it is a program issue not a league issue. Mr. Milani stated that Howard County clubs would have no problem, but some within Baltimore County and Prince George's County would. Ms. Davis spoke with Carroll County, and they are in favor of this. They would like to sit down with Baltimore County and Harford County to establish something uniform. Ms. Davis attempted to contact Harford County but was unable to speak with someone at that time; she will try again. Ms. Davis plans to meet with them next month. Mr. van den Beemt stated that the board should send a letter to all councils explaining this. He will have this letter ready for Mr. Smylie's signature at the next meeting.

Mr. Weber drafted a letter to send to those recreation councils that are not in full compliance regarding financial review and re-certification. Mr. Weber discussed the timeline for requested documents for recertification and went on to discuss action against non-compliant councils. Mr. Weber would like each board member to contact the non-compliant councils within their district and would like Lisa Liupaeter to send out the letter he drafted (with a few changes) prior to the next board meeting on February 13. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Weber would like to continue the discussion about consequences of inaction at the next board meeting. Mr. Williams stated that he could have the recertification and financial review forms posted on the website in addition to the list of certified recreation councils.

Mr. Smylie conducted research regarding background checks and provided a packet of information to those board members in attendance. Mr. Milani stated that this is something that should be done and stated that they should urge elected officials to advocate for this objective. Most organizations are requiring background checks as a national standard. Board members discussed school policy on this matter. Further discussion ensued on all aspects of this issue. Mr. Smylie stated he would conduct additional research; Mr. Milani is to send him a point of contact.

Ms. Davis inquired about the proposed merger of Patapsco Neck-Norwood (PNN) Recreation Council with Berkshire-Eastwood Recreation Council stating that staff questioned whether it would be better for PNN to merge with Dundalk-Eastfield instead, offering a greater availability for fields. Board members replied stating that this was never presented as an option to them and they think the merger with Berkshire-Eastwood is a done deal. Mr. Smylie plans to contact Mr. Definbaugh to determine the status of this merger.

In regards to Gray Charles Recreation Council, Ms. Davis was informed that the council lost their 501(c)(3) status. Mr. Weber recalled that they were working with someone to get this filed. Mr. Brooks is to contact Katie Carter.

New Business:

Mr. Milani had recently attended a couple of council meetings and stated that there were questions about placing members of the council on payroll. Mr. Milani inquired about whether or not there was a policy that addressed this. Ms. Davis responded stating that there is a directive that states that individuals are not permitted on payroll if that individual serves in a leadership role.

Cynthia Mingo came before the board to discuss issues she has with the Turner Station Recreation Council. Donnell Green, former council president, was in attendance with Ms. Mingo but did not address the board. Mr. Brooks recused himself from this discussion, stating that he knows the parties involved. Ms. Mingo handed out copies of the recreation council's by-laws and copies of various letters of suspension. Ms. Mingo discussed her issues with the council and members of the

executive board, providing her side of the story. She began with the first letter of suspension (August 2011) through present date. Ms. Mingo stated that this is a personal issue between her and Maurisha Graves-White, who is now the acting president. Ms. Mingo stated that she would like to be released from the suspension. Board members responded stating they would need to do some follow-up and stated they would need to hear all sides before coming to a collective decision. Discussion ensued amongst board members. Mr. Brooks plans to talk with the council president and past president and intends to invite the current president to the next board meeting. Mr. Williams stated that the board needs to define at what level and to what degree they are going to hear appeals. Mr. Brooks responded stating that he is working on this and talking with Mr. Weber.

Action:

Mr. Weber made a motion to send a letter to all non-compliant councils that will include consequences of inaction, Mr. van den Beemt seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Milani moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. van den Beemt seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter