

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DAVID SMYLIE, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held immediately following the annual dinner meeting with the Baltimore County Board of Education, at 7:21 p.m. The meeting was held at Sherwood House located at 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, Maryland. In attendance were David Smylie, chairman; Mike Weber, vice chairman; board members Leslie Monfred, Eric van den Beemt, Wayne Definbaugh, Chuck Munzert and Brian Weir. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services, Mike Schneider, community outreach liaison and Chris McCollum, executive director, Agriculture, Nature & Special Facilities.

Board members agreed to hear Maurisha Graves-White at the start of their meeting. See “New Business.”

### **Announcements:**

Director Barry F. Williams announced that Dunbar Brooks had resigned from the board and a new board member has been appointed.

Brian Weir introduced himself as the new representative for the 7<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District. Mr. Weir provided some background information and went on to discuss issues in his area. Mr. Weir reported that program registration is down and this is in part because the flyers are not making it to the children, rather they are going in the trash.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

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

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

Mr. Williams informed board members that he spoke to Bob Staab, former director of Recreation and Parks, under Dennis Rasmussen. This discussion was sparked when Karen Cruz wanted to come before the board to appeal the sale of the North Point Government Center. Mr. Williams told Mr. Staab that this board is advisory. The board does not weigh in on the purchase or the sale of any county properties. Mr. Williams stated that it would be disingenuous to allow some to come before the board thinking that it could make a difference on the outcome of any sale. Mr. Williams stated that the current building is in need of a great deal of renovations. It is cost efficient to sell and then build something else. Mr. Williams stated that there is a possibility that someone could take a portion of the property and keep the fields. Part of the RFP is for fields and a 21,000 sq. ft. community center.

Mr. Williams discussed the upcoming president's meetings and invited board members to attend. Mr. Williams stated that past meetings were beneficial.

### **Old Business:**

Chairman David Smylie reported that the Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC) submitted their proposed constitution and by-laws. Wayne Definbaugh discussed a few issues he had with the proposed document and stated that he would work with the BCSC. In addition, Mr. Definbaugh stated that the financial policy needed to be re-written and should go hand-in-hand with the constitution and by-laws. Chris McCollum pointed out the settlement sheet, which was included for board member's information. Mr. McCollum stated that the issues between the BCSC and the Back River Recreation Council have been worked out and the BCSC has officially split from the council. The settlement sheet consisted of signatures from both the president of the council and the BCSC. In addition, the council wrote a check to the BCSC. Discussion ensued. Mr. Williams commended Mr. van den Beemt for a job well done.

Mr. van den Beemt discussed the draft letter he prepared regarding 1099s and stated the need to take steps today to incorporate this change. Mr. Weber suggested a few changes to the draft letter. Mr. van den Beemt will incorporate these changes, send to board members for approval and then would like to get this out to all council presidents.

In regards to financial review and recertification, a letter was sent to those councils that did not comply. Mr. Weber had asked board members to contact those councils in their area to prompt a response. Mr. Weber reviewed the council's standings with board members and discussed the board's next steps. He would like to send a follow-up letter to those who have not responded and would also like to have a list of all certified councils posted on the website.

Mr. Williams stated that he re-submitted the board's questions to Mike Field and is still attempting to get a date for the meeting with Mr. Field and Fred Homan. Questions were re-submitted because the Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council issue was added to this list. Board members expressed their frustration with the delay. A board member noted that several councils have suggested that they may ask their county council representative to intervene if they cannot work something out with the county. There was a discussion regarding whether the board should assist bringing this to the attention of their county council representative. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Definbaugh is still looking into background checks and stated that Mike Milani was to provide him with a point of contact.

Patapsco Neck-Norwood Recreation Council is merging with the Berkshire-Eastwood Recreation Council. This merger will be official by July 1, after the conclusion of the dance program. Boundaries need to be changed in the council's by-laws.

Beahta Davis reported that the Gray Charles Recreation Council recently had a court hearing but did not attend. Mr. Definbaugh will look into this. Mr. Smylie discussed Mr. Brooks' update, which was emailed to board members prior to this meeting. Mr. Definbaugh stated that he would get a copy of last year's tax form.

### **New Business:**

Ms. White is the president of Turner Station Recreation Council and was invited to attend the board meeting to discuss the appeal of Cynthia Mingo. Ms. White discussed the reasons for the suspension and provided copies of letters sent to Ms. Mingo regarding this matter. Ms. Mingo was suspended May 2012 for one year but is still operating in the capacity as she was before the suspension and representing herself as part of the recreation council. Discussion ensued. After Ms. White shared her side of the story and left the building, board members further discussed the issue and came to a decision. The board will send a letter to Ms. Mingo, with a copy to the Turner Station Recreation Council, indicating their support of the council's decision. Brian Weir will draft the letter and send to Lisa Liupaeter for letterhead and signature.

Mr. Weber informed board members that Ed Pinder had planned to attend tonight's meeting but was not able. Mr. Pinder will try to attend the next board meeting in April. Mr. Weber briefed the board on Mr. Pinder's issue. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Williams reported that the Baltimore Blast would be using NERRC as their new training facility. They will be using the facility at times during the day that councils are not.

Mr. Definbaugh commented on the proposed West Inverness Constitution and By-laws and stated that they are very similar to Parkville's, with which he assisted. Board members agreed to table this item until Mr. Definbaugh has a chance to speak with the council.

Ms. Davis informed board members about the staff training that is scheduled for April 25 at Randallstown Community Center. Staff has inquired about the financial review and recertification process for recreation councils and how they could assist with this. Ms. Davis would like board members to partake in this training and speak about this. Mr. Weber and Chuck Munzert stated that they are available to assist.

Mr. Williams discussed the election of chair and vice chair and suggested board members come to the next meeting prepared to take a vote for new officers. Mr. Smylie appointed Mr. Definbaugh and Mr. Munzert to the nominating committee.

Ms. Davis mentioned that there would be changes to the use of schools now with new security initiatives. Ms. Davis stated that an additional staff person would be needed for those schools without access to an entry buzzer system. Mr. Weir discussed the security issue with bathroom use at Colgate and Ms. Davis replied stating that she is working with BCPS on this matter. Brief discussion ensued regarding overcrowding and its effect on our program's use of school facilities.

### **Action:**

Mr. van den Beemt made a motion to uphold the decision made by the Turner Station Recreation Council to suspend Cynthia Mingo for a period of one year ending May 2013, Mr. Weber seconded and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Definbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Weir seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter