

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DAVID SMYLIE, CHAIRMAN

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at 5:55 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Mike Weber, chairman; Eric van den Beemt, vice chairman; board members Leslie Monfred, Mike Milani, Wayne Definbaugh, Chuck Munzert and Brian Weir. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Beahta Davis, chief, Recreation Services and Mike Schneider, community outreach liaison.

Approval of Minutes:

Wayne Definbaugh motioned to approve the April board meeting minutes, Vice Chairman Eric van den Beemt seconded, and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Mike Weber asked board members to give some thought over the next few months about liability coverage for volunteers. He asked board members to convey their thoughts to him; he would like to get something to the County Administrative Officer and all council presidents.

Mr. Weber informed board members that he and Chuck Munzert participated in a recent seminar that Beahta Davis conducted regarding training for community supervisors. They provided training on financial review in an effort to better inform staff so that they may assist the local recreation councils in a more efficient manner.

Director's Comments:

Director Barry F. Williams stated that the presidents meetings went well; there was good participation by board members. Mr. Williams stated that he thinks it is beneficial to have board members in attendance. Mr. Weber responded by thanking Mr. Williams and department staff for conducting the presidents meetings, recognizing the amount of effort that goes into this.

Mr. Williams reported on the budget hearing held on May 2 stating that there were no recommended cuts to our budget.

Mr. Williams informed the board that Mr. van den Beemt notified him and Councilman Todd Huff of property for sale in the northern area. The property consists of 77 acres on Mt. Carmel Road. Mr. van den Beemt discussed the possible uses for the site including both outside and inside amenities. The site has the potential to accommodate a library and senior center. [To note, Hereford has the only rented library facility in Baltimore County.] There is also a tenant house on the property and discussion of a possible partnership with Penn-Mar has been mentioned. Mr. Williams stated that

this is looking good. Chris McCollum is talking to horse breeders, and Fred Homan seems to be interested as well. Mr. Williams stated that he would be touring the property tomorrow.

The Towson YMCA is off the table now; however, Mr. Williams stated that there is funding in the budget for acquisition. In addition, the Spring Grove property was discussed, but the state is only giving up 8.8 acres at this point.

Mr. Williams discussed recent changes regarding staff in the field. He also discussed staff development and customer service and reported that there have been two trainings thus far with another large training scheduled in October.

Old Business:

Mr. Definbaugh informed board members that he has updated the by-laws and financial control policy for the Baltimore County Sailing Center (BCSC) and recommends the board approve these documents. Mr. Definbaugh stated he would write a letter notifying the BCSC of the board's decision and will copy Mr. Weber.

Mr. van den Beemt informed board members that he has received numerous comments regarding the 1099 issue. He stated that the board is not making the recreation councils do anything, but rather trying to keep them from getting in trouble with the IRS. Brief discussion ensued.

In regards to financial review, Mr. Weber stated that he would send the re-certification letter out next month. He plans to provide a list of councils that are not re-certified to correlating board members to make contact to discuss what the councils need. Mr. Weber would like the list of re-certified councils posted on the website. In addition, there is a need to determine what the status of limbo is and what this means.

Mr. Weber and Mr. van den Beemt attempted to come up with questions/answers regarding coverage for volunteers. Mr. Weber, Mr. van den Beemt and Leslie Monfred met with Mr. Homan and Mike Field about this. They would like to bring clarification to this matter. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Weber encouraged board members to come up with questions/answers and forward these to him within the next two weeks. Mr. Weber stated that Mr. Field said he would be available for ongoing dialogue as questions arise. The questions/answers will be compiled and sent to board members for review.

Mrs. Davis informed board members that she brought information back from SSCI regarding background checks for Mr. Definbaugh. This company has a partnership with MRPA and National PAL. Mr. Definbaugh reported that he spoke to an individual from a different company and received a quote. He proceeded to discuss this quote and what it entails. Mr. Definbaugh stated that he is still looking at different vendors. Mr. Weber stated that this issue is not on some recreation council's radar while other councils are very concerned about this. It also varies amongst programs. Mr. Weber stated that we still need a lot more information on this. Further discussion ensued. Questions were raised regarding best practice and how the board would get involved.

Brian Weir reported that Katie Carter, president of the Gray Charles Recreation Council, is stepping down. Ms. Carter had nothing but nice things to say about Mr. Definbaugh regarding how helpful he has been. Mr. Definbaugh responded stating that the board needs to continue to work with councils

such as Gray Charles stating that the board has a chance to help them. Mr. Weir stated that the by-laws were being typed.

New Business:

Mr. Munzert encountered a couple of recreation councils that he believes have some issues. There are some councils that have multiple family members running the council. Mr. Weber responded stating that the board could come up with a policy to prevent this from happening as one family should not be running an entire council. Mr. Weir discussed this issue as it pertains to Gray Charles Recreation Council.

Mr. Definbaugh informed board members that West Inverness Recreation Council has not filed taxes in several years. Council President Addie Finn needs to work with a CPA to get eight years of filing; they are not in good standing this year. Mr. Weber stated that the board needs to work on this and come up with some ideas for the next meeting. Mr. Definbaugh has spoken to Ms. Finn and stated that he worked on the by-laws with them three years ago. The by-laws are complete and include everything that he required. Mr. Definbaugh is to notify the council regarding the board's decision to approve the constitution and by-laws.

Mr. Munzert reported that the treasurer for the Essex-Stembridge Recreation Council is having issues obtaining financial totals from Essex. He plans to attend the council meeting next week and will bring this up.

Mr. Weber stated that the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council recently made revisions to their by-laws in order to obtain approval from the IRS for their 501(c)(3) submission. The council has six attorneys on their board and has been thorough with this document. The council would be happy to provide their constitution and by-laws as a template for others to follow. Mr. Weber will send a letter to the council notifying them of the board's decision regarding their proposed revisions.

Mrs. Monfred received a call from Councilwoman Vicki Almond regarding Choo Smith, Youth Empowerment. Mrs. Davis was able to provide Mrs. Monfred with information regarding this matter.

Mrs. Davis mentioned the recent issue that she and Greater Pikesville Recreation Council President Brian Friedlander have been discussing. This issue pertains to the new modular unit and the number of bathrooms verses the number of program participants expected. Mrs. Davis is working on this and stated that they need to wait for the requisition to go through Board of Education and get their response.

Mr. Munzert stated that he recently attended the Towson Police meeting where they discussed the rash of burglaries in the area. Mrs. Davis responded stating that people should not leave any valuables in their car.

Mrs. Davis inquired about Patapsco Neck-Norwood (PNN). Mr. Definbaugh responded stating that he was notified that the baseball and softball programs were running out of PNN instead of Berkshire-Eastwood Recreation Council. Mr. Definbaugh further stated that the son of the treasurer was fined \$10,000 or \$15,000 and sentenced to two years in jail. He is to pay this sum to PNN when he is released. Mr. Definbaugh stated that this judgment needs to be assigned to Berkshire-Eastwood Recreation Council so they get this money. On another note, the question was raised

about the money PNN currently owes for group leadership and how this will be done so Berkshire-Eastwood Recreation Council isn't paying their debt. PNN was supposed to dissolve after the dance program ended in May. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the conversion date is now August at the conclusion of the baseball and softball programs.

Mr. Definbaugh and Mr. Munzert discussed the article regarding the turf field at Essex Community College and how the recreation council is unable to use it. Mike Milani discussed other turf field related issues.

Action:

Mr. Definbaugh motioned to approve the proposed Constitution and By-Laws and Financial Control Policy for the Baltimore County Sailing Center, Mr. Milani seconded, and all were in favor.

Mr. Definbaugh motioned to approve the West Inverness Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Weir seconded, and all were in favor.

Mr. Definbaugh motioned to approve the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council Constitution and By-Laws, Mrs. Monfred seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mrs. Monfred moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Milani seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter