

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

MICHAEL WEBER, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 6:15 p.m. at the Loch Raven Center, located at 1801 Glen Keith Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland. In attendance were Mike Weber, chairman; board members Leslie Monfred, David Smylie, Mike Milani, Chuck Munzert, Wayne Definbaugh and Brian Weir. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director; Behta Davis, chief, Recreation Services; Karen Volz, regional coordinator, Therapeutic Services and Susan Cormack, regional coordinator, Region 3.

Director Barry F. Williams welcomed everyone to the Loch Raven Center. He then introduced Karen Volz who provided background information regarding the site. In addition, Susan Cormack addressed the board and provided additional information.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Brian Weir motioned to approve the September board meeting minutes, Wayne Definbaugh seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Announcements:**

Mr. Definbaugh announced that he will be leaving the board as soon as his replacement has been appointed. He is moving to Harford County and getting married; however, he stated that he is still willing to help out. Mr. Weber thanked him for all that he has done.

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

Mr. Williams reported that the groundbreaking for Gough Park was held on Tuesday, October 1 at 11:30 AM. Chuck Munzert and Leslie Monfred were both in attendance. Mr. Williams stated that it is nice to have board members come out. In addition, the groundbreaking for the Perry Paw Dog Park at Honeygo Regional Park was held on Tuesday, September 17 at 11:30 AM. Mr. Munzert, Mrs. Monfred and Mr. Weber attended that event.

### **Old Business:**

Regarding financial reviews, Mr. Weber stated that he continues to get further information from the recreation councils. He plans to form a sub-committee to sort everything out and see where we are.

Mr. Weber asked Mr. Williams if he heard back from Mike Field regarding the questions submitted by the Perry Hall Recreation Council. Mr. Williams stated that he did not hear back from Mr. Field but he would follow up.

Mr. Definbaugh stated that he has no additional information regarding background checks. Discussion ensued. Mr. Weber stated that this was not something that could be decided on this evening.

Mr. Weber stated that the board discussed the Coaches Code of Conduct in length at the last meeting. This can be removed from the agenda.

Mike Milani informed board members that he and Eric van den Beemt have not had a chance to discuss the 1099 issue. Mr. Milani stated that this is a legal matter; it is the law. Discussion ensued. Mr. Weber asked that Mr. Milani and Mr. van den Beemt discuss this matter before the next board meeting.

Mr. Weber drafted letters regarding a smoking ban and changes in recreation facilities. Board members voted to send these letters to the county executive and the county council.

### **New Business:**

Bryan Sheppard addressed the board, introduced himself, stated that he previously met with Mr. Weir, and has since spoken to the county executive. He came before the board because he heard board members may have some questions regarding the way Property Management is handling things. He thought it would be good to come before the board to create a better communications flow, to explain and answer questions. Mr. Weir responded stating that he would like to see something in writing stating what Property Management will and will not do for the recreation councils. Mr. Weber and Mr. Munzert informed board members of the situation that started this conversation. They reported that the councils were told that Property Management would not provide dumpsters; however, while at a President's Meeting, one council president overheard another council president state that they did receive a dumpster from Property Management. This was in contradiction to earlier directives from Property Management. Mr. Sheppard stated that he, Mr. Williams and George Klunk had met with council presidents over the past year to discuss maintenance. Mr. Sheppard stated that various recreation councils have different needs. He stated that a hard copy will take time; there is a lot to work to sift through and they are still trying to define things. Property Management is focusing on grass, field maintenance, trash and playgrounds. Mr. Weber asked Mr. Sheppard where he gets his information as to field needs. Mr. Sheppard stated that he gets his information from the recreation council meetings he attends or from the recreation council presidents that contact him. Mr. Weber stated that he thinks we need a base line of what is available. Beahta Davis stated that the community supervisors talk with the council presidents and discuss this type of information.

Mrs. Monfred informed Mr. Sheppard that the board has been discussing background checks. Mr. Sheppard responded stating that he would take this information back to the county executive, letting him know the board is looking into this. Brief discussion ensued regarding recreation councils and background checks. Mr. Weber stated that the board has not made a recommendation at this point; this is something they are talking about. Mr. Sheppard stated that he would like to come back periodically to keep the communication open. Mr. Williams stated that he appreciates that Mr. Sheppard is very much an advocate for Recreation and Parks. Mr. Williams recommends that the board have Mr. Sheppard attend their meetings on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Definbaugh reviewed the proposed revisions to the Parkville Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws. He agrees with Ms. Davis that the sentence in Article II, Section 1, which references the Board of Education, should be changed. This should state Department of Recreation and Parks

and not Board of Education. In addition, Mr. Definbaugh noted a change should be made regarding the membership meetings, stating that the response should still go to someone. Mr. Definbaugh recommended accepting the constitution and by-laws with the two changes discussed.

Mr. Williams informed board members that the county attorney looked over the Joint Use Agreement. This agreement was signed by all parties and taken to the school board yesterday. Mr. Williams plans to meet with all principals and Dr. Dallas Dance, which is the more important piece. He will notify board members of the date, once it has been set, and if appropriate, board members could/should attend. Mr. Weber responded stating that the board should be involved and that this agreement should be followed. Board members agree that the Joint Use Agreement should be signed.

Mr. Weber stated that he has not heard from Charles Gilman regarding Ed Pinder's opinion on libel and slander. He will follow up by the next board meeting.

Mr. Weber passed out a document listing various sub-committees. He asked all board members to review the list and decide which sub-committee they would like to be involved with. Mr. Weir responded stating he would like to be part of the oversight sub-committee.

### **Action:**

Mrs. Monfred motioned to send the letters regarding a smoking ban and changes in recreation facilities, as issued, to the county executive and county council, Mr. Weir seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Definbaugh motioned to accept the Parkville Recreation Council's Constitution and By-Laws, with the two changes made by the board, Mr. Weir seconded and all were in favor. The council must submit the revised constitution and by-laws within 30 days. Mr. Definbaugh will write a letter to the recreation council informing them of the board's decision.

Mrs. Monfred motioned to approve the signing of the Joint Use Agreement, Mr. Definbaugh seconded and all were in favor.

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

Mike Lockett, chair, Eastern Baltimore County Over 40 Baseball League, came before the board to discuss field availability. The league had 10 teams and used 5 fields this year. Mr. Lockett discussed the various fields and the issues they encountered. While five fields were provided, they differed from those assigned earlier in the year. He had concerns as to the safety of those fields due to the shape that they were in on most Sundays. Furthermore, Mr. Lockett stated that there are several people interested in joining the league. Ms. Davis asked Mr. Lockett to schedule a meeting with her and the local community supervisor to discuss his concerns.

Patricia Paul, of Dundalk United, came before the board to announce that the group is still out there and strongly opposing the sale of the North Point Government Center (NPGC). This is not a proposal the community supports, and she is urging everyone to protect parkland. She stated that protecting parkland should be the board's highest priority. Ms. Paul also discussed the field lighting project at NPGC, which began in 2006, and has since been abandoned. She stated that the community was never told in 2012 that the project was canceled. Mr. Sheppard was not able to provide information to the community for months. The group pushed for a Public Information Act

request. Program Open Space money was allocated to this project in 2011 and \$63,000 of taxpayers' money went into the logistics of the project that ultimately never happened. Ms. Paul would like the board to tour the NPGC and hear from the community.

Bob Staab, former director of Recreation and Parks and Dundalk resident, discussed the start of Recreation and Parks and the concept of the Board of Recreation and Parks. He discussed the success of Recreation and Parks, referring to it as a "tremendous asset." Mr. Staab stated that this has deteriorated rapidly over the last 10 years and referred to the sale of property for commercial development as "outlandish." He spent 40 years in recreation working to do all he could and stated that we are now losing this. Mr. Staab urged the board to do all they could. Mr. Weir responded stating that the board voted to send a letter regarding the sale of property. Once this is formalized, Mr. Weir stated that he would forward a copy to Mr. Staab. Mrs. Monfred inquired about who made the decision to sell the property. Mr. Williams responded stating that the decision rests with the county executive. Mrs. Monfred thinks the board should visit the NPGC. Further discussion ensued regarding the property, reason for sale, condition of the building and lack of transparency. Mr. Weber stated that, according to the by-laws, if there is a change in use of parkland, the board is required to give an opinion. Mr. Williams stated that if board members would like to see the NPGC, we could arrange for staff to be there. He instructed board members to coordinate the visit through Mike Schneider. Ms. Paul volunteered to conduct a tour. Mr. Williams stated that he would have Mr. Schneider contact her. Mr. Weber will contact Mr. Schneider with a couple of dates for the tour – sometime between now and the next board meeting. Mr. Williams stated that the department has shared all we know with the board.

Len Billian addressed the board, providing background information on himself and then inquired as to how the board is made up. He reported that there is a 3.5 acre parcel of land bordering York Road and Towsontowne Boulevard. There was an article in the Jeffersonian discussing the potential lease of this property. The article stated that anyone wishing to do so could write a letter and send it to the county executive's secretary; he did so. Mr. Billian stated that this is county property that is going to be leased to Towsontowne Bypass, LLC. He urged everyone in attendance to write a letter, by October 10, stating interest to use this property as potential parkland.

Karen Cruz stated that she is passionate about protecting parkland. She discussed councilmanic courtesy – voting based on how the council member in the area votes, and asked board members to speak to their representatives to encourage thinking/voting independently.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Munzert moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Weir seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter