

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DANA JACKSON, CHAIR

## Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., via WebEx. In attendance were Dana Jackson, Chair; Corey Johns, Vice Chair; and board members Jon Marsalek, Bill Murray, Isaac Manjoe and Desiree Mundell-Collins. Department staff included Bob Smith, Director; and Cortney Weinstock, Deputy Director.

Also in attendance: Jeffrey Budnitz, Lake Roland Nature Council; and Lamar Williams, Perry Hall Recreation Council.

### **Call to Order:**

Chair Dana Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Jon Marsalek motioned to approve the January meeting minutes; Desiree Mundell-Collins seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

### **Committee Reports:**

Bylaws Committee: Mr. Marsalek reported that the committee met this month, and thanked Vice Chair Corey Johns for sharing all council bylaws with the group. The committee is planning to review all bylaws, looking to see when they were last updated, to use this as a starting point to determine which need to be revised/updated. Mr. Johns reported that comments were shared with Turner Station.

Financial Review Committee: Both Ms. Jackson and Ms. Mundell-Collins stated that they have nothing to report at this time. Ms. Mundell-Collins stated that she has concern regarding the Lamar Williams matter, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Governance Committee: Mr. Johns reported that the committee met to discuss the matter concerning Mr. Williams, and how to proceed. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Legislative Committee: Mr. Johns stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

### **Old business:**

Regarding the *Board Meeting Schedule*, Ms. Jackson indicated that Lisa Winters sent the schedule to all board members for review. Both upcoming dinner meetings were also discussed and Ms. Jackson asked if there were any questions. Board members posed no questions. Board members discussed meeting in person next month. Mr. Johns stated that he could utilize the projector to share the map he created. Ms. Winters stated that she would check site availability for the March meeting.

Ms. Jackson received a request to look at *Revisiting Boundaries* again. Mr. Johns reported that this was an ad hoc committee. Ms. Jackson said she would touch base with Mr. Johns to discuss, and look at the map he created. Mr. Johns to share this map with Bill Murray.

Board members briefly discussed the *Overlea-Fullerton and Parkville Shift to District 6 (D6) Representative* as geographically they should be within the D6 board member representation. Mr. Johns motioned to approve this shift with brief discussion ensuing. Ms. Jackson suggested members look at the map to visually see where these two communities lie, and suggested tabling this item until next month. Mr. Johns withdrew his motion.

### **New Business:**

Mr. Murray, new board member for Council District 5, was introduced, to which, he provided brief background and all welcomed him to the Board.

Mr. Marsalek referenced his email regarding the annual report to the County Executive (CE), and followed up on this. Ms. Jackson stated that she would discuss with Mr. Johns on how to proceed. Mr. Johns replied, stating that they were waiting on this due to the transition to the new CE, indicating that this is probably not the best time to submit the letter. Mr. Johns stated that if anyone has specific things to highlight aside from MOUs, to please send a blurb to him/Legislative Committee. He stated that he thinks it is appropriate to delay since the CE is new to the position.

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

Director Bob Smith addressed board members stating that it has been a month of meetings. BCRP is currently in budget cycle preparation, developing the Department's operational and capital requests at the same time. The budget will be finalized by the end of March, with the Budget Message scheduled for April 11. In addition, the CE's Budget Town Hall meetings have begun, with a change in format. The Open House is scheduled from 6 – 7 p.m. with senior leaders available at department tables to answer questions; the Town Hall begins at 7 p.m.

Mr. Smith reported that we are currently interviewing for a couple of positions. In addition, the Untied Rentals contract went before Council and passed. There are a number of capital projects in design, and a ribbon cutting scheduled for Sparrows Point Park on March 19, which all members will be invited to attend. The pool at the Dundalk Center, which has been closed for some time, is scheduled to reopen late March or early April. This is leased to the YMCA. Mr. Smith encouraged all to follow BCRP on Facebook for various updates. Further, Mr. Smith referenced the stakeholder meeting with recreation and nature councils.

Mr. Johns asked about the MANO email that was sent out, as he is looking for clarity on the deadline date for councils to opt in and whether they will have the opportunity to opt in at a later date. Mr. Smith replied, stating that it is import for us to know by Friday as to who needs what, but he can go back to MANO as long as we stay within the allowable service stated in the contract. Ms. Jackson questioned the amount of communication sent to councils, and Mr. Johns referenced the quick turnaround. Discussion ensued. Mr Smith stated that the councils can reach out to Fran Spero with any questions.

### **Comments By Individual Citizens:**

The requested items submitted by Mr. Williams were placed back on the agenda for all board members to review what has transpired. Ms. Jackson stated that there are three components to look at this evening and they are as follows: Open Meetings Act, Automatic Stay and Motion for Dissolution. Ms. Jackson researched the Open Meetings Act and stated that this does not apply to a 501(c)3 organization. See item under "Action." Ms. Jackson stated that she was not clear about the Automatic Stay and asked if Mr. Smith had additional insight to

share with the Board. Mr. Smith stated that his understanding is that this is a request from Mr. Williams for the Athletic Committee not to carry on with the decision to remove him. Mr. Williams confirmed that this was accurate. Mr. Johns stated that the Board is only making decisions on whether the judgements were made appropriately. Ms. Jackson stated that she was supposed to obtain correspondence from Paul Amirault [Perry Hall Recreation Council] but she did not receive this. She asked Mr. Johns if he was in receipt, and he confirmed that he was not. With Mr. Amirault out of the country, Ms. Jackson suggested tabling the other two items until next month, to receive correspondence from Mr. Amirault; all agreed.

### **Chair's Report:**

Ms. Jackson reported that a stakeholder group email went out to all recreation and nature councils and she has compiled a list of those interested. Discussion ensued. Mr. Smith will provide a list of who was on the previous stakeholder group. Mr. Johns will follow up with the nature councils to reiterate that the stakeholder group is for them as well.

Brooks Paternotte asked Ms. Jackson to ask Mr. Smith about addendums for the MOUs. Mr. Smith replied, stating that every council has sent in an addendum. Ms. Jackson asked if all signed MOUs were received. Mr. Smith replied, stating that we are waiting on a couple, but almost all are complete. Mr. Johns stated that if the Board can assist with this in any way they will.

Ms. Jackson asked Mr. Johns if everything was worked out with the Baltimore Bays. Mr. Smith stated that the Baltimore Bays, as a travel club program, were in two separate councils, and had an independent 501(c)3. They are now under one council and dissolving the 501(c)3.

Ms. Jackson reported that she received an email from Michael Arnoff to look into a situation where he was expelled from the senior baseball program run by Towson Recreation Council. She will contact him this week to obtain more information, as well as Towson Recreation Council, for information to share with board members. Mr. Johns stated that the Governance Committee is happy to help.

Board members discussed the situation regarding Turner Station Recreation Council. They have been in contact with Maurisha Graves-White to try to put together a community meeting with Mr. Smith's involvement, to discuss the MOU. The community doesn't understand the MOU and the purpose for the Council. Discussion ensued. Mr. Smith has reached out to Ms. Graves-White, and will do so again with a copy to Ms. Jackson.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Ms. Mundell-Collins stated that she has been working with District 1 regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Halethorpe Colored School and thanked Mr. Smith and staff for their availability in working with the community. She stated that details should come to Mr. Smith soon. Additionally, she met with a staff representative and walked through the building and grounds. Mr. Smith stated that the new plaque has been reordered.

Mr. Marsalek reported that several recreation councils in his district are interested in participating in the stakeholder group. He stated that he will wait for the list to advocate for them to participate. Additionally, Mr. Marsalek asked for clarification on who Ms. Spero sent the email to regarding MANO, as one of the councils he reached out to reported that they had not received this. Mr. Marsalek stated that he will reach out to all, to forward this email to ensure their receipt. Mr. Smith asked which president was not in receipt of the email; Mr. Marsalek responded, stating that it was Prettyboy.

**Comments By Individual Citizens Continued:**

Based on MOUs, Jeffrey Budnitz stated that as the Board breaks out the schedule of events upcoming, Lake Roland Nature Council is ready to complete recertification whenever the Board is. As it relates to MANO, Mr. Budnitz stated that he was contacted by a few council folks and the need for service, and he supported this. Ms. Spero sent an email related to this on February 11, seven days after funding was approved, with a 10-day window to reply. Mr. Budnitz stated that he thinks a wider window should be given. Ms. Jackson questioned whether we could ask Ms. Spero for an extension; Mr. Smith stated that he is asking now.

**Action:**

Regarding the Mr. Williams matter, Ms. Jackson motioned to vote against the accusation that there was a violation of the Open Meetings Act since this does not apply to the recreation council as a 501(c)3 organization. Mr. Johns seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Ms. Mundell-Collins moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Marsalek seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters