

**Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
March 19, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

The annual Board of Recreation and Parks and Baltimore County Council dinner meeting was held on Monday, March 19, 2007, at 5:00 pm in the County Council Library, Towson, MD. The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Recreation and Parks was held immediately following, at 6:05 pm. In attendance were chairman Jim Emerick, vice chairman Steve Verch; board members Steven Kroll, Dunbar Brooks, Althea Page, Jacob Smith, David Smylie, Wayne Definbaugh, and Emmet Davitt. Staff included John Markley, deputy director, and Lisa Liupaeter, board secretary.

Board members observed a moment of silence in memory of Keene Gooding, who passed away in February.

Chairman Jim Emerick presented former board chairman, Steven Kroll, with a plaque in appreciation of his services as board chair over the years.

Regarding the proposed Therapeutic Recreation Council, the board has decided to continue discussing this. This council would act as a consultant/resource to all other recreation councils. Karen Volz will need to think about everything discussed at the previous meeting.

Mr. Verch attended the Eastern area president's meeting and stated that the area would like a place for wrestling, cheerleading and dance. Mr. Verch stated that there is an area in Perring that might work, but he is concerned that this may be too far to travel. There is talk that the Giant on Stemmers Run Road is to be sold. If this building were to be sold, it would be an ideal location. Mr. Verch also reported on the concern that the recreation council is not able to use of the lighted field at Dundalk Community College.

The board had discussed the proposed Dundalk-Eastfield By-Laws and is awaiting their final review.

Mr. Emerick informed the board that Christopher McFadden is no longer on the board due to a conflict of interest. The appointment of another board member has been requested.

A copy of the draft Joint Use Agreement for high school stadiums was given to each board member. Mr. Kroll stated that he believes that the department is at a disadvantage by not having the agreement signed by the Board of Education. There was discussion to write an agreement solely for the turf field at Catonsville, but this was dismissed. Mr. Markley stated that all parties have agreed to meet and review a new Joint Use Agreement for high school stadiums. The department would like the agreement to reflect that recreation council games would not get bumped for another school's game and that any high school practice should not bump a recreation council game. It would be very beneficial for recreation councils to attend PTA meetings. The same children that are in school are the same children involved in recreation programs and, by attending PTA meetings, we can reach parents whose children may be affected by certain issues, such as not being able to play at a certain field. Mr. Kroll commented that this

method would be too slow. Althea Page responded that she was once the president of the PTA for Oliver Beach and it really depends on each PTA. There was also discussion on attending Board of Education meetings and making statements that way.

Jacob Smith stated that the department needs to have a signed agreement before the turf field is constructed at Essex. Mr. Smith further stated that we should not fund fields until we reach the appropriate agreement and, because we do not have an agreement with Catonsville, we have no leverage. At our next meeting with the Board of Education, we can discuss these issues.

Action:

Jim Emerick was nominated board chairman and Steve Verch as vice chairman. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Wayne Definbaugh motioned to approve the January board meeting minutes, Dunbar Brooks seconded, and all were in favor.

Announcements:

Mr. Emerick reminded everyone to fill out their Ethics Forms and mail them back.

Mr. Emerick attended a meeting for MRPA at Northwest Regional Park. He reported that project coordinator Dave Goodwin received an award. Mr. Emerick stated that recreation and parks is seeing a wave of retirements and further stated that there is a need for people to take this career path.

Mr. Emerick attended the Dennis Yeagle Memorial Bull Roast and said that it was a nice event. He enjoyed seeing many new faces. Mr. Emerick mentioned that Jim Royer received an award for his 55 years of service.

Mr. Verch told the board about his experience with the Popsicle Plunge, which raised about \$15,000 for Marshy Point Nature Center. The event was very successful, and Mr. Verch encourages everyone to attend next year.

Althea Page attended the Southeast area president's meeting and said that there were very few complaints and many requests.

Mr. Kroll informed the board of the dedication for the field at Catonsville on Friday, March 23rd at 3:30 pm. The official dedication is April 20th.

Director's Comments:

John Markley spoke briefly about Keene Gooding. Mr. Gooding has been involved in many, many things over the past years. He had dedicated his life to recreation, and Mr. Markley wants to make sure that people do not forget this.

The Catonsville turf field is finished. This is Mr. Goodwin's first artificial field. Mr. Markley stated that Mr. Goodwin was a great project manager. Although the field does have a warranty, we still need to make sure it is installed properly. The department will be installing two or three next year and are asking for \$1.6 million from the state to pay for half of the cost of three fields. The total request for the department is \$9,850,000. Delegate Malone thinks we will probably get \$275,000 to light the Arbutus Middle School field. Perring Racquet Club appraisals have come in at a level we can afford. This will help accommodate needs in Towson and be labeled as a regional facility.

The Agriculture Center has been included in the budget request. This will become a recreation and parks asset. They are in the process of reviewing proposals and will then hire a consultant to do a Master Plan. The center will offer agriculture education, and the Baltimore County Horse Breeding Association will have an office there as well.

The Jacksonville Park community meeting went well. There were approximately 140 attendees. There will be a 15,000 sq. ft. building consisting of a senior center and recreation center. There will be two or three athletic fields, parking and trails that connect to the Jacksonville Elementary site. There is money in the budget but a consultant has not been hired yet.

The construction of the artificial field at Seminary is scheduled to start this September.

The Baltimore County Sailing Center would like to form a recreation council. The Back River Recreation Council is agreeable to this. Mr. Markley has advised them to write by-laws and stated that they need to get their 501(c)(3). Mr. Markley thinks this is a great idea. He stated that their money and membership are larger than any other program at Back River. Back River Recreation Council cannot handle this; they need to pay people to run this program. They already have a great place, and Mr. Markley stated that he likes the idea of making this a sailing destination.

Board Member Activities:

The next board meeting will be held on June 13th at 5 pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks in the boardroom.

Reports:

- A. Information Technology – Dunbar Brooks, David Smylie and Jacob Smith – no report

- B. Budget and Enterprise – Jacob Smith, Jim Emerick and Emmet Davitt – Mr. Smith spoke to Bud Chrismer and reported that the Loch Raven Fishing Center is to open on April 6th and Oregon Ridge has four BSO concerts scheduled.
- C. Incorporation and Liability – Wayne Definbaugh, David Smylie and Dunbar Brooks – no report
- D. Land Acquisition and Capital Projects – Steven Verch, Emmet Davitt and Wayne Definbaugh – no report
- E. Programs – Althea Page and Dunbar Brooks– no report
- F. Legislation – Wayne Definbaugh, Steven Verch and Emmet Davitt –no report
- G. Policy –Jim Emerick and Jacob Smith – no report
- H. Facilities – Christopher McFadden, David Smylie and Althea Page –no report

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter