

**Baltimore County  
Board of Recreation and Parks  
June 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at 5:13 pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks, Towson, MD. In attendance were Chairman Jim Emerick, Vice Chairman Steve Verch; board members Emmet Davitt, Steven Kroll, Mike Weber, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks, Jacob Smith and Student Representative Tom Dugan. Staff included Bob Barrett, Director, John Markley, Deputy Director, and Bud Chrismer, Chief of Recreation Services.

Therapeutic recreation and the possibility of forming a recreation council, is an ongoing subject and will remain on the agenda. Anytime more dialogue comes about we will discuss this issue.

The Dundalk Eastfield Constitution and By-Laws were included in board members folders but appeared not to be the revised constitution and by-laws. John Markley stated that he would look into this and that this item of discussion should be placed under "old business" for discussion at next month's meeting.

As for the Baltimore County Sailing Center, we have not received anything from them regarding their attempt to form a new recreation council. Bud Chrismer stated that he had spoken to Steve Maddox and was informed that the center has applied for their 501 (c) (3). Mr. Markley replied that the group already has by-laws from when the sailing center was a recreation program. Mr. Chrismer stated that he would get the by-laws from the sailing center to be included in next month's folders for the board.

Mr. Emerick thanked the board for great attendance at the last meeting, stating that it was very productive. The next meeting regarding joint use is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at the Board of Education. Regarding joint use, Steve Verch stated that there are people who follow rules/procedures and can still run into problems with facility use because of those who do not follow rules/procedures. Mr. Emerick encouraged board members to listen to each area to find out what types of things are happening. There are standard forms to be filled out. With the new policy, these forms are not changing but the location where they are handled is. Mr. Chrismer stated that with the new policy, things would be more centralized, with Bill Wingerd. Jacob Smith stated that this procedure is working very well and should stay this way even after maintenance has been completed. Mr. Chrismer would like to attend the board meeting in September to update the board on this process. Mr. Emerick will attend the next joint use meeting along with Mr. Verch.

Regarding the High School Stadium Joint Use Agreement, Mr. Markley stated that the draft has been modified a bit. He further stated that there has not been a meeting yet to discuss this agreement but a meeting will be scheduled in the near future. Steven Kroll commented stating that the draft looks great and feels this agreement should definitely be in place.

Mr. Emerick informed the board that Walt Savoye had called him to discuss Cromwell issues. Mr. Emerick stated that he would be calling Mr. Savoye back to set up a meeting with him.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Jacob Smith motioned to approve the May board meeting minutes, Steven Kroll seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Announcements:**

Mr. Emerick took a moment to thank Tom Dugan for serving as student representative and wished him well on all future endeavors.

Mr. Emerick welcomed new board member Mike Weber. Mr. Weber has been active in the Perry Hall and White Marsh/Kingsville recreation councils, coaching baseball and basketball.

Mr. Emerick introduced Bud Chrismer, the new Chief of Recreation Services.

Mr. Emerick commented on the Baltimore County Community Waterfront Festival, which was held May 12<sup>th</sup>, stating he had really enjoyed the event. Mr. Barrett replied stating that this year's event was a huge success.

Mr. Verch attended the Marshy Point Nature Center Spring Festival on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and said he had a good time. He further stated that the pier at Marshy Point is fantastic and thinks a field trip to this facility would be nice.

Mr. Kroll attended the Lax Splash and Lax Max events and reported that there were approximately 10,000 children participating. He further stated that he had a great time at these events. Mr. Kroll also stated that he would like to have another meeting at the Ravens Facility.

Mr. Emerick encouraged all board members to attend as many events as possible and report on these events at each meeting. Mr. Emerick stated that it is good to have the community see board members in attendance at these events.

Mr. Emerick announced that the next meeting would be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, July 18<sup>th</sup>, here at Recreation and Parks.

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

Mr. Barrett started off stating that things have been very busy as is evident based on the program statistics, which show everything on the rise.

Mr. Barrett stated that the county executive recently held a retreat for senior staff, setting the agenda for the next three years. About ½ the projects in the package are recreation projects including construction of new community centers, artificial turf fields and additional lighting.

Mr. Barrett stated that there is not much from the state; the County Executive funded everything the department did not receive. Mr. Barrett further stated that along with the artificial turf field planned for CCBC-Essex, lights would also be installed. POS development money will help with the cost of the field but as a requirement, we must have a joint use agreement in place.

As for the artificial turf field at Catonsville High School, cooperation thus far has been wonderful, despite concerns.

The ice rink/soccer arena in Reisterstown is scheduled to open in January. This facility will be operated in partnership with the Revenue Authority.

Mr. Barrett reported that the county is in the process of negotiating with the city in an effort to take over Robert E. Lee Park. The county would lease the park. The park is out of control and would require a lot of work as well as money to get the park into pristine condition but Mr. Barrett believes it would be worth it. Mr. Barrett stated that the department would like to see the addition of walking trails, a new bridge, a picnic area, playground, concert area, possibly a boating area and a fenced in and controlled dog park area. Mr. Barrett stated that there is \$1.9 million in the budget allocated for this park. Mr. Barrett stated that the park would need to be closed while the new bridge was put in and that a recreation council would need to be formed as well. Mr. Emerick responded that he thinks it is a good idea to form the recreation council before the park is open. To further manage the park, Mr. Barrett would like to see enforcement officers throughout the park as well as a maintenance shop located right in the park.

Mr. Barrett stated that regarding North County, a compromise was reached wherein Shelly Fields development plan will be cut back in terms of the indoor soccer arena, the number of fields and the number of parking spaces. As for the Yarema property, Mr. Barrett received a call regarding our interest in purchasing it. Mr. Barrett instructed them to send their offer over in writing stating the department will not waste any more time/money on appraisals. The initial contract for Perring Athletic Club was rejected and negotiations are in the works. As for additional property, info and appraisals are forth coming. Mr. Barrett stated that the department has money to spend and is actively pursuing additional land.

Mr. Barrett stated that the department has a great budget this year, nearly \$17 million. \$28,000 was willingly given up and \$7,800 was cut. Mr. Barrett stated that the department did very well, probably the largest budget yet.

Mr. Barrett reported that the department was looking into the possibility of hiring an on-call contractor for the installation of the artificial turf fields: Northwest Regional Park, Meadowood Regional Park and CCBC-Essex.

### **Board Member Activities:**

There will be no meeting in August. The next board meeting will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at Marshy Point Nature Center.

### **Reports:**

- A. Information Technology – Dunbar Brooks, David Smylie and Jacob Smith – no report
- B. Budget and Enterprise – Jacob Smith, Jim Emerick and Emmet Davitt – no report
- 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 6:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter