

**Baltimore County  
Board of Recreation and Parks  
December 12, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at 5:09pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Chairman Jim Emerick, Vice Chairman Steve Verch; board members Emmet Davitt, Mike Weber, Althea Page, Jacob Smith, Steven Kroll, and Wayne Definbaugh. Staff included Bud Chrismer, acting, deputy director.

Shakeara Lynch, teen representative for the board, is having transportation issues and thus has not made it to any of the board meetings.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Wayne Definbaugh motioned to approve the November board meeting minutes, Mike Weber seconded, and all were in favor.

**Announcements:**

Internal Promotion-Patrick McGregor was promoted to MA III. Congratulations, Pat!

The dedication of the Artificial Turf Field at Seminary Park is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11am, at the park. Here, the county executive will announce the addition of several other turf fields planned for Baltimore County.

The Shining Star Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm, in the Council Chambers.

The play, Beauty and the Beast, will be preformed by "The Sky is the Limit", as their holiday program.

Steven Kroll requested that the board plan another trip to visit the Ravens Facility in February or March of 2008.

**New Business:**

Mike Weber and Wayne Definbaugh, committee members appointed in November to investigate issues surrounding the Pikesville Recreation Council, reported back to the board, their findings thus far. The Pikesville Recreation Council Board knew that Mr. Weber and Mr. Definbaugh were planning to attend their meeting. Pikesville Recreation Council Community Supervisor, John Eubank, introduced Mr. Definbaugh and Mr. Weber and both received no reception from those in attendance. Both board members sat back and watched how the council meeting was run, reporting that the entire meeting was run by Council President, Mike Snitzer. Mr. Definbaugh had copies of the meeting minutes and agenda from the previous Pikesville Recreation Council Board meeting, for board members to review.

Mr. Definbaugh has concerns about the lack of explanation of funds and questions expenditures. Mr. Definbaugh also has concerns regarding the list of 10 member programs, affiliated youth

programs and affiliated adult programs. Mr. Definbaugh's definition of affiliate includes having to be approved by the recreation council. He further questions Mr. Snitzer and council programs and wants to know if they are 501 (c) (3).

There was discussion about distributing \$1,500 in petty cash to each program. There are 15 separate checkbooks, one for each program. The checkbooks are in Pikesville's name, which seems like it would be hard to keep track of. Althea Page inquired as to whether checks require single or double signature. Mr. Definbaugh and Mr. Weber responded they did not know. Mr. Weber reported that there was no treasurer's report. There was nothing handed out nor voted on. Mr. Weber feels that the board needs to look into this further. He would like to attend another meeting and review their books and would like the boards' approval to do so. The board has an open invitation to review the books, which was given back in April 2006. Furthermore, they are public record. Mr. Weber further stated that there was mention of collecting receipts for tax return purposes and he is interested to see what records are given to the accountant. Mr. Definbaugh stated he thinks Pikesville is in the process of hiring a bookkeeper or accountant. Form 990 is to be filled out which will show if there are any discrepancies. Mr. Weber is hoping to re-visit and get resolution to how much money there is and where it is. While at breakfast with Chairman Jim Emerick, there was discussion of the 15 separate checkbooks and Mr. Snitzer stated that he would like to pull in all the checkbooks and do something about the joint use.

At the council meeting, the wrestling program received questioning due to poor attendance. The coach stated the poor attendance was a result of not having enough mats. Mr. Snitzer then told the coach to see him at the conclusion of the meeting.

Ms. Page inquired as to what the overall feel from others in attendance at the meeting was, and both Mr. Weber and Mr. Definbaugh responded that there was much grumbling going on. Mr. Definbaugh stated that there was hardly any community involvement at the meeting.

The board asked whether Director Bob Barrett had received a response from the Office of Law and they were told that their questions were sent to County Attorney John Beverungen but Mr. Barrett has not yet received word back. The board is currently waiting for a response to find out legally what they can do regarding Mr. Snitzer. Emmet Davitt agrees with Jacob Smith that the county attorney ruling is crucial to the actions/enforcements of the board and that the board needs this information ASAP. Mr. Weber agrees as well. Mr. Emerick stated that page 19, of the Board of Recreation and Parks By-Laws, states that recreation councils are authorized agents of the board, so the board does have authority.

Mr. Emerick stated that the recreation council is to appoint a nominating committee in January, present nominations in February and hold elections in March, for new officers. The direct conflict with Mr. Snitzer's private company is another issue. Mr. Definbaugh recommends that the 1993 by-laws stand as the valid by-laws. There is someone who is willing to step up once 1993 by-laws are enforced.

Ms. Page stated that she had another issue with someone abusing power, went to the county level and this was a problem. She is angry that nothing has been done yet, even when a call for help went out. Ms. Page stated that the board needs the backing of the community regardless of their lack of involvement. She stated that the board, and all others in the situation, needs to enforce the by-laws. Ms. Page stated that the appropriate procedures need to be enforced regarding field use as well.

Mr. Emerick stated that he did not like the phone set up when calling the Pikesville Recreation office. Acting, Deputy Director Bud Chrismer stated that the department had decided on call forwarding, further stating that he would look into this again.

Mr. Chrismer and Mr. Emerick had a meeting to discuss certification of recreation councils. Mr. Emerick stated that this is something that is in our by-laws, on page 19, and needs to be worked on. Mr. Emerick asked board members to review the "Application for Certification" document included in their folders. Mr. Emerick appointed a committee to follow this through.

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

Mr. Chrismer attended his first Board of Public Works meeting in Annapolis and reported that the department received POS money for the Schmidt property, approximately \$950,000. The community wants a community center rather than playing fields but there is no funding for this at this time.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, programming staff, maintenance supervisors and crew chiefs, and other department staff will meet with folks from the Board of Education to discuss what each area does and how everyone can most efficiently work together. This meeting will also give attendees a chance to meet those they have been, and will be, working with. Vice Chairman Steve Verch inquired as to whether this would be beneficial to council presidents to have a similar meeting. Mr. Chrismer responded that he does in fact; think that this would be beneficial.

### **Action:**

Following Article 4, Section 1B, of the Board of Recreation and Parks By-Laws, Mr. Emerick appointed Dunbar Brooks as chairman of the Nominating Committee, along with Althea Page and Steven Kroll. The committee is expected to present their report at the next board meeting in January and the election and installation of officers shall take place in February.

Wayne Definbaugh made a motion for the committee, appointed to investigate Pikesville issues, to re-visit the recreation council and report back to board members, their findings. Emmet Davitt seconded and all were in favor. Mr. Emerick suggested the committee make an appointment to do so.

Steven Kroll motioned to solely recognize and enforce the 1993 Pikesville Recreation Council Constitution and By-Laws, subject to approval by the Office of Law. Emmet Davitt seconded and all were in favor.

Mr. Emerick appointed a committee to oversee and lead discussions amongst the board, for certification of recreation councils. Mr. Emerick appointed Steve Verch as chairman, along with Jacob Smith and Emmet Davitt, to serve on the committee.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Mr. Emerick had a breakfast meeting with Mr. Eubank on November 15<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting Mr. Eubank voiced his concerns with the Pikesville Recreation Council and they are as follows: the

council is not responsive to request of information, there is use of profanity, if questions are asked you are told off and dismissed, and checks are pre-signed. Mr. Eubank stated that he has a difficult time programming and that staff can't operate at premium because of these ongoing issues with Mr. Snitzer. Mr. Snitzer does cause a lot of issues and is thus causing problems for Mr. Eubank, by continuing to try to do Mr. Eubank's job, and not his own. There is a system set up to best handle things and it appears that this is not being followed/abided by.

Mr. Emerick also attended a breakfast meeting with Mr. Barrett and Mr. Snitzer. At this breakfast, Mr. Emerick told Mr. Snitzer about the committee appointed to investigate Pikesville issues, that the committee would attend a recreation council meeting, listen and report back to the Board of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Emerick went on to report that he made mention, two times during breakfast, that the last by-laws on record, without any amendments, are those from 1993. In response, Mr. Snitzer stated that in fact there have been changes since 1993 and that those changes had been given to Keene Gooding. Mr. Emerick responded that proposed changes must be presented to the Board of Recreation and Parks, with area supervisor and council president in attendance. Both meetings gave Mr. Emerick a chance to look further into the Pikesville issue.

Mr. Verch attended the Candy Cane Hunt on December 1<sup>st</sup>, at Eastern Regional Park. Mr. Verch reported that the Candy Cane Hunt was a great event with an amazing turn out of children and their parents. Prizes were given away and there was also a tree for attendees to hang mittens and hats on, to later be donated to those in need. Mr. Verch reported that staff did an excellent job and board members should plan to attend next year.

Ms. Page attended the Northwest Area President's Meeting and said that the community was not asking for much. In fact, the meeting was pretty short with no real complaints. Mr. Verch had planned to attend the Eastern Area President's Meeting but it was rescheduled.

### **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 –David Smylie and Althea Page –no report

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Jacob Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Steven Kroll seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter