

**Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
April 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

The annual Board of Recreation and Parks and Board of Education dinner meeting was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 6:00pm in the Greenwood Administration Building, Towson, Maryland. The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held at 7:15pm. In attendance were Chairman Steve Verch; board members Emmet Davitt, Steven Kroll, Jim Emerick, David Smylie, Althea Page, Michael Weber and Jacob Smith. Staff included Bob Barrett, director, Bud Chrismer, deputy director and Marty Stoelting, chief of recreation services.

Approval of Minutes:

Emmet Davitt motioned to approve the March board meeting minutes, Jim Emerick seconded, and all were in favor.

Announcements:

Althea Page announced that the Marshy Point Nature Center festival is scheduled for the upcoming weekend and is a wonderful event, fun for the whole family.

Steven Kroll announced that the 2008 Baltimore County Community Waterfront Festival is May 10th and all should come out and enjoy the day.

Bud Chrismer announced that Wilson Point Park won an award from MRPA, stating this was an honor for the Department.

Mr. Chrismer announced that the County Executive would honor Jerry Soukup, who has worked with the Perry Hall Recreation Council for 52 years.

Mr. Chrismer invited all board members to come out for the Groundbreaking for the Artificial Turf Field at Northwest Regional Park, on May 14th at 10:30 am.

Mr. Chrismer informed the board that there would be a Keene Gooding Drive Dedication on May 16th at 10:30 am. Mr. Kroll responded that Keene Gooding was one of the finest public service individuals in Recreation and Parks.

Old Business:

Regarding the LTRC flea market, Chairman Stephen Verch has attended four times now and stated that crowds are improving as the weather does. Mr. Verch stated that he believes the permit for the flea market is coming up for renewal. Mr. Verch stated that he received a letter from the Community Association members who are angry about this program, thanking he and the board for taking the time to meet with them. They have yet to respond to the idea of arbitration but did ask Mr. Verch to identify similar programs in other recreation councils. Mr. Verch responded thanking them for writing and further stated that recreation councils do their own fundraising. Ms. Page inquired into whether there was security at the flea market and Mr. Verch said there was security

there but he had not seen them, further stating that security may be in plain clothes. Mr. Chrismer stated that he has seen someone in uniform directing traffic. Mr. Chrismer went on to state that he doesn't believe this is just a fundraiser; it is a happening, an activity.

Regarding Pikesville, Wayne Definbaugh was not able to attend the meeting tonight but has been engaged on issues of by-laws and has been in touch with folks at the Pikesville Recreation Council. Bob Barrett has been in contact with Mike Snitzer especially regarding the board's mission on obtaining records from the treasurer for their review. Mr. Barrett has not yet received anything but is pursuing this issue. Michael Weber reported there are many issues going on. Mr. Weber attended the April 1st meeting and stated that there was not a lot of vocal opportunity but there was support for Mr. Snitzer. A nominating committee was formed consisting of three people, two of which were then nominated to be members of the board. Elections are to take place shortly. Ms. Page inquired about the nominating committee, asking whether they were appointed and about the nominating committee nominating themselves. Mr. Weber responded that he does think they had been appointed. He attempted to make contact with them and was not well received.

In addition, according to the council, the 1993 by-laws are not the by-laws to abide by. There had been revisions made since then which the council claims had been approved and these are the by-laws they refer to. Mr. Verch would like the board to review the email from the Office of Law, discussing the boards' role, and allow board members to draw their own conclusions. Mr. Weber reported that financial records have not been delivered yet because Mr. Snitzer is on vacation. Mr. Weber does believe that things are moving and if the recreation council comes forth with financial records, things will be good. Mr. Definbaugh has been contacting the recreation council and said he has not promised nor approved anything.

Mr. Kroll stated that the board, as an advisory board, have one power and that is to certify or not certify. Mr. Kroll stated that several issues have repeatedly presented themselves. Mr. Kroll stated that contingent de-certification of Pikesville Recreation Council unless the recreation council produces the books for all tournaments and programs within thirty days. If the board is satisfied, the council will not be decertified. Mr. Kroll stated that, subject to further order of this board, the board should act now because the timing is right. No child will be deprived; all members are here and not on vacation and before soccer begins. Mr. Kroll is urging the board to grant his motion and send written notice to the recreation council.

Mr. Weber replied that he doesn't necessarily agree with de-certification. Mr. Weber stated that the board doesn't know what promises were made regarding by-laws, that the recreation council states that Mr. Gooding certified the 2002 by-laws. Mr. Weber further stated that someone from the board should have been there once a year and they were not, which can come back against the board. Mr. Weber stated that the recreation council might believe they are following the board's request with their by-laws and someone may have told Mr. Snitzer that it was ok to submit the records once he returned from vacation.

Emmet Davitt replied that the board should give the recreation council a chance to comply and if they don't, then de-certification is the way to go. Ms. Page inquired into what would happen if the board did de-certify the recreation council. Mr. Weber replied that Mr. Snitzer would leave, go somewhere else and those who were a part of the recreation council would leave too. Marty Stoelting stated that permits for the regional parks would be altered but they would get home fields. Jacob Smith commented that even if Pikesville recreation council were de-certified, they would still

be able to use fields, just down in order. Mr. Smith stated that there needs to be control over this and questioned what would happen after de-certification. Jim Emerick responded that there would no longer be Pikesville Recreation Council. David Smylie stated that de-certification means that someone else can come in and start a new recreation council but the books/records are with the old recreation council. Ms. Page stated that the board should take a positive approach and explain what can be done to get to the top of the order.

Mr. Smith stated that all recreation councils are coming up for certification and the board should look at them all. Mr. Kroll stated that the board sends out letters for certification and what is required. The councils do this and send it back. Mr. Emerick stated that certification happened three years ago and the only council there was a problem with was Pikesville. Mr. Kroll stated that he would defer the motion regarding de-certification until next month. Mr. Smith has worked on the certification form. Ms. Stoelting stated that certification came through Mr. Gooding and that the staff is not going to get involved in this. The letter would come from the Chair of the board and go to the recreation council presidents.

The board was advised that advice of council will be sent to all board members.

Board Member Activities:

Jim Emerick attended the Ribbon Cutting for the Education Wing at Marshy Point Nature Center. Mr. Emerick reported that it was a great ceremony and a wonderful place to visit.

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, the meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter