

**Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
September 10, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 5:55pm at the County Office Building, 111 West Chesapeake Avenue, Room 219, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Chairman Steve Verch; board members Emmet Davitt, Steven Kroll, Jim Emerick, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks and Jacob Smith. Staff included Bud Chrismer, deputy director, Marty Stoelting, chief of recreation services, John Eubank, community supervisor for the Pikesville area, Beahta Davis, area coordinator for PAL Program and Melanie Herrera, intern.

There were several folks in attendance regarding the Pikesville Recreation Council issue. These folks included Bruce Kauffman, Mark Horowitz, Steve Engorn, Allen Pogash, Aaron Max, Brian Friedlander and Ellen Sue Levinson. Each individual in attendance was asked to sign in and would be given the chance to speak before the board.

Bruce Kauffman was the first on the list and chose to defer his comments until later on. Mark Horowitz declined to comment. Steve Engorn had concerns regarding the documents that would be available to the public, and the personal information they contained, stating this personal information should be blocked out. Allen Pogash stated he would comment if needed.

Aaron Max addressed the board regarding the certification of a new recreation council to service the Pikesville area. Mr. Max stated the group of volunteers interested in forming a new recreation council, held a meeting on July 16th. Twelve volunteers attended and during this meeting, decided that it would be too risky, both financially and legally, to take over the existing recreation council. The group started taking steps towards forming a new recreation council, including meeting with staff from the Department of Recreation and Parks to further explain their efforts and progress.

Mr. Max handed out a copy of the agenda from the July 16th meeting and stated there were just under 30 in attendance, including leadership from many existing programs. Those in attendance showed overwhelming support to pursue a new recreation council. The new recreation council would be called the Greater Pikesville Recreation Council. A draft version of the Constitution and By-Laws for the new recreation council was handed out. The EIN number was obtained, the 1023 application for a 501 (c) (3) status was prepared and is ready to go, and a donation was received for the cost of the document. A list of proposed officers was handed out, with no conflict of interest for any of those on the list. The slate of officers will be presented at the October meeting and an election will take place in November. During this time, the new recreation council will seek certification from the Board of Recreation and Parks and will then be up and running and ready to accept new programs.

Mr. Max expressed his concerns regarding the financial aspect of the existing recreation council. Mr. Kauffman interjected, objecting the continued appeal from Mr. Max stating it is completely inappropriate to discuss the Pikesville Recreation Council at this time. Mr. Kauffman further stated any further discussion be tabled until the Pikesville Recreation Council has their hearing. Chairman Steve Verch responded stating anyone can address the board on any matter. It is not part of a hearing or formal process. Mr. Verch further stated the board couldn't entertain Mr. Kauffman's objection; it is not proceeding for action at this meeting. Mr. Kauffman then stated Mr. Max's request for support by the board should not be considered. Mr. Verch responded stating anyone can

present things to the board. Mr. Max has no authority or membership to make a motion; he can only address the board. This will not prejudice further standings with anyone.

Mr. Max then handed out several other documents to the board including the Board of Recreation and Parks Council Policies where he focused on the mandatory audit for each recreation council, April 22, 2008 Board of Recreation and Parks meeting minutes where he quoted Jim Emerick regarding certification and problems with Pikesville, and a document showing cash flow from 2004 to 2005 which Mr. Max says shows cause for alarm. Mr. Max stated that there have been ongoing issues with the Pikesville Recreation Council, which have been documented in board minutes from the last couple of years. Mr. Max went through several board meeting minutes, back to 2006, pointing the issues out.

Mr. Max stated that 2 years and 9 months later, this is of great frustration to him and many others. Mr. Max also expressed his anger that both Mike Weber and Wayne Definbaugh, board members responsible for heading the sub-committee to look into the Pikesville Recreation Council matter, were both absent. In conclusion, Mr. Max stated he wanted to get things done quickly and efficiently and is now seeing results of this, which he has shown to the board. With this said, Mr. Max would like the Board of Recreation and Parks to show support to the Greater Pikesville Recreation Council and lend guidance to them as well.

Mr. Pogash chose to speak at the conclusion of Mr. Max's time, before the board, stating this issue with Pikesville does not go back 2 years and 9 months. Mr. Pogash was the Treasurer in 1998 and can forward 6-8 letters from John Weber regarding the same issues. Mr. Pogash further stated that Mike Snitzer said he was not worried about anyone and could do what he wants.

Ellen Sue Levinson chose to speak before the board stating she doesn't know everything that is going on but has had children of her own go through the Pikesville Recreation Council and has never had an issue with Mr. Snitzer. Ms. Levinson stated she is in attendance to learn. She is very active in PTSA and Pikesville has been very kind the last few years, donating money to help put on an after prom party. Ms. Levinson inquired into when there would be a resolution to this matter stating this group is one who is losing out because of what is going on.

Mr. Kauffman reported that the Pikesville Recreation Council has 90 programs, 2500 children and 350-400 volunteers, accumulated over 50 years, and you only hear few dis-satisfied people. Mr. Kauffman stated that Mr. Snitzer has been around 24 years and president for 14 years. Mr. Snitzer does a great job and has been beneficial to the entire community. It is the accusations that are hurting the children. Mr. Kauffman welcomes the opportunity to speak at the next meeting.

Mr. Horowitz chose to speak, stating he has been a volunteer, coaching lacrosse for the last 18-20 years, and does all he can to help children. He stated that Mr. Snitzer has only helped him over the years and has now stepped aside and new elections are to take place. Mr. Horowitz stated that if there is mis-appropriation of funds, he wants to get to the bottom of this, commenting that he is a banker. Mr. Horowitz further stated that coaches from many of the existing programs all feel that Mr. Snitzer has done a great job.

Mr. Max stated that Mr. Horowitz does not attend the council meetings. Mr. Horowitz replied stating he does attend, gives his report and then leaves. Mr. Horowitz stated he had handled the LAX tournament the first year, then the next year there was an overwhelming turn out and Mr.

Snitzer was asked to take over. Mr. Horowitz stated that he intends to answer any concerns along with the new slate of officers, and hopes the recreation council is re-certified.

Mr. Engorn chose to speak, stating that this has done so much to the Pikesville Community, since the de-certification letter has come out, including hurting fall sports. Mr. Engorn inquired as to when this would be resolved stating the people in the community are leaving. Mr. Engorn has spoken to five chairpersons who want a resolution with the new elections and if the re-certification of the Pikesville Recreation Council doesn't happen, they will come before the board and do just as Mr. Max is doing.

Steven Kroll stated that anyone who would like to submit something could still do so, just as they may address the board. Mr. Verch stated that all in attendance have had an opportunity to address the board and all are welcome to remain here for the conclusion of the board meeting.

*6:59 pm - The board took a five minute break and resumed at 7:04 pm.

Mr. Verch addressed the board stating if board members were to have commented to those before them, it would be as if the board was taking action, when in fact it was citizen comments only and the board has allowed all a fair opportunity to present things to the board. At the next meeting the board will be allowed to ask questions, because it is a hearing.

Dunbar Brooks stated that Mr. Max took up a large portion of the meeting, and yet the board was not permitted to ask questions but next month when the board is permitted to ask questions, it will be mainly the folks from the Pikesville Recreation Council. Mr. Brooks stated this does not seem balanced. Jacob Smith replied that the issue is not about being able to ask Mr. Max questions but the de-certification of the Pikesville Recreation Council.

Mr. Kroll stated that the board must either motion to re-certify the Pikesville Recreation Council or certify the Greater Pikesville Recreation Council. A decision has to be made and there were by-laws presented to the board this evening. Mr. Verch commented that the board should not speak about decision making, regarding what was heard tonight, in all fairness of next month's meeting.

At next month's meeting, Mr. Verch stated that he didn't think the board should deliberate that same evening; instead, this should take place at the following meeting. Emmet Davitt responded stating the board can vote to deliberate when the time comes, but it would be nice to have the option open if they would choose to do so. At the next meeting Mr. Verch stated that Pikesville will come in and say what they want to say to the board but after that, the board needs to determine whether it will allow rebuttal and time for anyone to address the board on any topic. Although, if someone is making a case for a new entity, it would be unfair to entertain this on the same evening because it would complicate the due process and appearance of fairness of the board. Mr. Verch stated that the board must articulate the rules at the beginning of the meeting. A sign in sheet is needed and those who wish to speak will be called to speak in the order that they signed in. Mr. Brooks stated that the meeting next month is an appeal not a debate. The fact that there is a new recreation council forming is irrelevant to the action the board took, and the board needs to stay focused.

Deputy Director Bud Chrismer stated that the overall consensus is that a decision needs to be made because everything is going downhill. Mr. Smith asked whether or not the board has received all

records requested from the Pikesville Recreation Council. Mr. Verch responded stating that if Mr. Weber were here he would probably say no.

Mr. Kroll stated that the board has gone out of their way for due process and we need to look at what is best for the children. Both sides here are correct in stating that the area is hurting as a result of this action and we need to move forward. A decision needs to be made whether Pikesville is de-certified or re-certified or provisionally certify a group to act until a new council is certified. The longer we take the worse it is going to get. Mr. Brooks and Mr. Smith both agree that a decision needs to be made ASAP. Mr. Verch stated that the board could elect to make a decision at the time of the next meeting or hold another meeting after the appeal, to make the decision then.

Discussion of when to hold the October meeting took place, in an attempt to avoid scheduling the meeting on a Jewish holiday. Mr. Kroll stated that a representative from the board should attend the Pikesville meeting in September, solely as an observer.

Approval of Minutes:

Dunbar Brooks motioned to approve the revised June board meeting minutes with the addition of one correction to be made, to reflect that Steven Kroll was in attendance, Emmet Davitt seconded, and all were in favor.

Dunbar Brooks motioned to approve the July board meeting minutes, Steven Kroll seconded and all were in favor.

Old Business:

Regarding Pikesville, the meeting was originally requested to have members of Pikesville address the board. Two hours would be designated to Pikesville, which will include board member questions. This will now take place next month for a number of reasons including the fact that elections are to be held this month. As for the sub-committee report, Mr. Weber is not in attendance. There was discussion about the documents from Pikesville, which are to be made available to the public, upon request. The board stated that these documents should be kept in the community office, available when the office is open. Mr. Chrismer stated that these documents could be available in the Towson office as well.

Board members inquired about certification and whether or not the forms were ready. Mr. Chrismer responded stating nothing had been done as yet. Mr. Emerick stated that all councils are to be re-certified every three years, at the same time.

Mr. Verch reminded board members to think about what they wanted to include in the annual report to the county executive.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Chrismer informed the board that the Jacksonville Community Center project is moving forward. The Jacksonville Community Center will be a full size community center, 9,000 sq. ft., with a 6,000 sq. ft. gymnasium and a Senior Center built in next door.

Mr. Chrismer reported that within the next year, Perring Athletic Club will be up and running under the Department of Recreation and Parks. The tennis court will be converted to basketball and there will be two fields there as well.

Action:

Any document received by the sub-committee, with the following personal information redacted: social security number, e-mail address, home and business address, home and business phone number and tax I.D. number, is public record, held at the community office and at the Towson office, available during business hours. Steven Kroll motioned for approval, Emmet Davitt seconded and all were in favor.

Bob Stanhope is retiring in January. Norman Knoerlein informed the board that the Marshy Point Nature Center Council would like to name the new education wing after Mr. Stanhope. Althea Page motioned to approve this request, Jacob Smith seconded and all were in favor.

Board Member Activities:

Mr. Brooks attended the event for the MARC track, at Sollers Point. Mr. Brooks reported that the County Executive was in attendance and that it was a nice event.

Reports:

- A. Information Technology – Dunbar Brooks, David Smylie and Jacob Smith – no report
- B. Budget – 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, Althea Page moved to adjourn the meeting, Dunbar Brooks seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter