

**Baltimore County**  
**Board of Recreation and Parks**  
**March 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

The Annual Dinner Meeting between the Board of Recreation and Parks and County Council Membership was held on Monday, March 16, 2009, at 5:00pm in the County Council Library. The monthly meeting of the Board of Recreation and Parks was held immediately following, at 6:11 pm. In attendance were Chairman Steve Verch; board members Emmet Davitt, Steven Kroll, David Smylie, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks, Mike Weber and Jacob Smith. Staff included Bob Barrett, director; Bud Chrismer, deputy director and Marty Stoelting, chief of recreation services.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Dunbar Brooks inquired about the portion of the minutes that discussed the primary use of the Randallstown Community Center. After brief discussion it was decided that the portion of the minutes that read "...but it will range out from there" be removed. Jacob Smith motioned to approve the February board meeting minutes, with the proposed change, Steven Kroll seconded and all were in favor.

**Announcements:**

Director Bob Barrett informed the board that Mike Davis passed away. Mr. Davis and Mr. Barrett found the property, which is now Meadowood Regional Park. Mr. Davis liked to call this his property and Mr. Barrett would like to request that a field be named in his honor. Mr. Kroll further stated that Mr. Davis was a very good man and will be missed. Mr. Kroll stated that Mr. Davis' wife served on the board for years. Mr. Kroll agrees that a field should be named in his honor along with a dedication ceremony with the family. Mr. Barrett and Mr. Kroll will talk to Mrs. Davis.

Chairman Steve Verch told board members that if they missed the Popsicle Plunge, they missed a really good time. Althea Page also attended this event and said that it was very nice and it was wonderful to see the department represented.

Mr. Verch stated that if anyone is interested in fly-fishing to visit Marshy Point Nature Center this weekend. In addition, if you are interested in dog training, visit the Parkville Center. Mr. Verch reported that he observed radio control cars and trucks at Eastern Regional Park, traveling 71 mph, something neat to see.

Mr. Smith attended the Baltimore Saints Skate-A-Thon to raise money for the team to attend a tournament. Over \$14,000 was raised. Mr. Smith also stated that he attended the Reisterstown Recreation Council meeting and spoke to the head of the lacrosse program that informed him of the issues the group is having getting on the artificial turf field. Mr. Smith was informed the group is expected to provide mats on the track, goal posts and padding, and spot-a-pots. Currently, the goals and the spot-a-pots are locked up and not for use. Marty Stoelting responded stating she would contact staff tomorrow regarding this issue.

Mike Weber attended a community meeting in Kingsville regarding the former Gunpowder Falls Golf Course. Mr. Weber stated that this was a lively meeting; a meeting to discuss recreation needs in the area. There were many in attendance, many golfers who want the facility to stay as a golf course. Mr. Weber stated that Mr. Barrett handled the meeting well. Mr. Barrett responded stating

that the White Marsh/Kingsville Recreation Council stated they would contribute funds towards this project.

**Old Business:**

Regarding the report to the County Executive, Mr. Verch stated that this is an opportunity for the board to discuss a number of topics. Mr. Kroll responded stating that he is still interested in obtaining the information he requested at the last board meeting regarding tournaments.

There was discussion regarding the board's relation to recreation councils, their constitution and by-laws and appeals and hearings. There was lengthy discussion regarding the boards' role and several board members commented on clarification to this matter with emphasis on having the boards' role defined. Ms. Page discussed the boards' role referring to it as an advisory board, there to advise the department and follow up on recommendations. Mr. Weber stated that he thinks the board should discuss possible issues and how to handle them, in the event they do happen, to avoid having a repeat of what happened with Pikesville. The board had contacted the Office of Law during the Pikesville issue and was told that they do have the authority to certify and de-certify, now board members would like their role as a board clarified in writing. All board members agree that their by-laws need to clarify the role of the board.

Mr. Weber stated that if, as a board, they know what role they wish to serve, they can then ask for the authority to do so. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer responded stating that for 15 years the department has been saying the Board of Recreation and Parks is an advisory board to the department and they make policy for the recreation councils. Mr. Brooks responded stating that all recreation councils are independent but someone has to oversee them and this is not the department.

Regarding liability, Mr. Barrett stated that all volunteers are covered on any Baltimore County facility, for a certified council. If they travel, with notice to the county insurance division, they are covered. If a recreation council participates or sponsors a program not normally a recreation council program (i.e. flea market or plunge) the determination as to whether they are covered or not is currently under investigation. If the recreation council is raising money they should be able to pay for insurance coverage. If an area doesn't have a certified recreation council, they can go to a nearby council and act as an affiliate, and then they are covered.

Mr. Barrett stated that you couldn't act independently and expect to get field use or insurance coverage through the County. Pikesville is not incorporated but is a 501 (c)(3). The Greater Pikesville Recreation Council is incorporated and has filed for their 501 (c)(3). There cannot be an equal benefit for those who didn't follow the rules. Mr. Barrett stated that he thinks the board does have power over the recreation councils.

As for certification, Mr. Smith stated that since he has been on the board, this has not been on the agenda and was due last July. Mr. Smith then inquired as to whether the recreation councils are now no longer certified councils. The response to Mr. Smith's inquiry is that these recreation councils were never de-certified, there was simply no action taken.

**New Business:**

There was brief discussion regarding the definition of an affiliate and the amendments that need to be made to this definition. Ms. Stoelting stated that the definition should be revised. For the most part, the wording in the body stayed the same with the addition of what an affiliate has to do. This is to be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Director's Comments:**

Mr. Barrett informed the board that he was in Annapolis today for a hearing with the Appropriation Committee, regarding Robert E. Lee Park. We will match their funds with \$3 million for Phase 1: Improvements. This phase includes the general clean up of the park. Mr. Barrett suspects that over a 10-year period, there will be a Phase 2 and Phase 3. Mr. Barrett further stated that this could be a very substantial project for the department. The County will not own the facility; instead they will lease the facility from Baltimore City. Mr. Barrett referred to this as a Regional Project with the County Executive and former Governor.

The department will begin the installation of streetlights at Wilson Point Park, early May.

In addition, the \$21 million operating budget was submitted.

**Action:**

Mr. Smith motioned for Mr. Barrett to send a letter to the Office of Law to find out exactly what role the Board of Recreation and Parks is to serve and what power they have. Mr. Weber seconded and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Page seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter