

**Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
May 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 6:16pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Chairman Steve Verch; Vice Chairman Wayne Definbaugh; board members Emmet Davitt, David Smylie, 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:

Chairman Steve Verch directed attention to the portion of the minutes that discussed the role of the board and suggested a minor change in wording. Dunbar Brooks motioned to approve the March board meeting minutes, with the proposed change, Emmet Davitt seconded and all were in favor.

Jacob Smith motioned to approve the April board meeting minutes, Vice Chairman Wayne Definbaugh seconded and all were in favor.

Announcements:

Mr. Smith informed board members that the Baltimore Saints went to Buffalo for their hockey tournament and had a blast. Next year the tournament will be held in Laurel. Director Bob Barrett stated that the grant for this program is in good shape.

Mr. Verch had the opportunity to attend the Marshy Point Nature Center Spring Festival and said it was very nice. He also attended the Overlea, Parkville and Rosedale Opening Day parades and stated they were very well attended and encouraged fellow board members to attend.

Mr. Brooks reported that he had taken his grandson to t-ball and commented on the fine condition the ball diamonds were in.

The Randallstown Community Center dedication is scheduled for May 20. Shawn Elbert is the new community supervisor hired to work at this facility. The Y will manage the pool. There will be time available for recreation council use.

Mr. Davitt announced that he would be stepping down from the board. He may attend the next board meeting, dependent upon how soon the Councilman is able to fill his position. Mr. Davitt stated that he has really enjoyed his time served on the board. Mr. Davitt stated that his children are very active and he would like to spend this time with them. Mr. Barrett responded stating that he was very unhappy to hear this news. He stated that Mr. Davitt is a good consultant and wanted to personally thank him for his time served on the board. Mr. Verch further stated that Mr. Davitt is a good guy and stated that the board will miss him. All agreed.

Old Business:

Mike Weber is to hand out an outline of the "Definbaugh Committee", (fka the "Weber Committee") at the next meeting. The Committee consists of Mr. Definbaugh, Mr. Weber, Mr. Brooks and Althea

Page. The outline is to help with the report to the County Executive and will include issues and actions of the board, what their authority is and what board members would like it to be, and what should be included in the report.

New Business:

The board discussed the request to name the bridge at Honeygo after Gerry Soukup. Mr. Verch stated that there are currently fields in Perry Hall named after him. Mr. Verch spoke to Northeast Area Coordinator Don Kuklinski, who has spoken to the recreation council regarding this request, and stated that this may be something the council would like to review. Mr. Barrett stated that Ed Adams, Director of Public Works, has no problem with the department doing this as long as the signs are placed on each end of the bridge. Mr. Verch stated that the board should double check with Mr. Kuklinski regarding this request because the request didn't come from the council.

Chief of Recreation Services Marty Stoelting informed board members that the insurance division is no longer covering out of state events. Mr. Barrett stated that there would be a letter going out to all recreation council presidents to explain insurance coverage. The department worked with the Office of Law on this.

Mr. Verch reported that the settlement date for Perring is June 1 with renovations to begin June 2. The department intends to cooperate as best we can with the existing tennis group. Ms. Stoelting stated that the facility is scheduled to re-open early October. Mr. Definbaugh commented about the graffiti on the building as well as cleaning up the stream. Mr. Definbaugh further stated that the community performs a stream clean up event, where in the past, they have removed a great deal of trash from the stream.

Recreation and Parks has a new property in their inventory located in the Fullerton area. This is the Casagrande property. The department intends to build a parking lot at this site to accommodate program participants at Fullerton Park.

The Department of Recreation and Parks will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary on October 3 at Oregon Ridge. Jean Tansey is head of the committee. The event will be inside and outside and about 360 tickets will be sold.

Ms. Stoelting discussed the Council Certification/Audit Form and requested that the returned forms come in through the department to either Lisa Liupaeter or Cindy Jeannetta, so that we can keep record of this information. The Council Certification/Audit Form and corresponding letter has not gone out yet. Mr. Verch stated that he would sign and get these out so we can get them back timely. Mr. Verch further stated that he would be happy to run them through the department and stated he would have the form for the next meeting. Mr. Barrett stated that he would mention this at the upcoming President's Meetings.

Ms. Stoelting handed out the new "Affiliate Organization" document at the end of the March meeting for board members to review. Board members received another copy of the document at this month's meeting, and lengthy discussion ensued, in particular about not-for-profit and non-profit groups. Ms. Stoelting discussed affiliate organizations, reviewed the document with board members, and stated that affiliate organizations are not covered under the County's umbrella insurance coverage. Affiliate organizations do not run their money through the recreation councils, nor do we

provide leadership for this group. Affiliate organizations are included in the pecking order for use of fields, as opposed to an outside group, which is not. Mr. Verch recommended a minor change to the document and Ms. Stoelting agreed. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding for-profit groups. The department does not charge for field use for non-profit organizations. The department charges for-profit organizations at regional parks and at revenue generating facilities. Mr. Verch inquired about the use of pavilions at our parks. Mr. Barrett responded stating that we do not charge for this (except at the above mentioned sites), it is a donation, which goes to the recreation councils, not the department. Board members discussed the idea of the recreation councils having the authority to request information and the affiliate organizations required to provide this. David Smylie stated that the board should look at the definition of affiliate organizations and then look at the requirements they should present, in an attempt to make certain these groups are not for-profits using the fields. Mr. Barrett stated that this should be the decision of the recreation councils, keeping this at the local level.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Barrett reported that the department had a very challenging budget this year as well as a very challenging legislative session in Annapolis. They faced a very difficult fight over open space but in the end convinced them to leave our money alone. The department has been very aggressive on acquisitions, accounting for all money in the budget. Furthermore, the department has back up contracts in case the initial ones fall through. Mr. Barrett further stated that the department normally receives between \$2 and \$10 million in POS funds but this year are only slated to receive \$800,000. Mr. Verch stated that a significant portion of the POS money that we would normally have received was applied to state projects and further stated that the state is not purchasing property for active recreation, but instead to preserve property. The Operating and Capital budget basically received zero cuts, resulting in a history making \$22 million Operating Budget.

The President's Meetings are underway. The Southeast Area President's Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening and all are welcome to attend.

Deputy Director Bud Chrismer reported that four artificial turf fields are just about complete. These fields are: CCBC Dundalk, Reisterstown Regional, Honeygo Regional and Lansdowne.

Mr. Barrett asked board members to kindly bear with us regarding grass cutting, due to all the rain we have received. Mr. Barrett stated that most of the complaints coming in are Board of Education sites and the response from the Board of Education is that they will get to them when they can. Chief of Park and Facility Maintenance Tim Winters is really working hard with the crews to handle getting this taken care of. By the end of this week we should be caught up.

Mr. Barrett reported on the Community Meeting for the former Gunpowder Falls Golf Course. There were many golf enthusiasts in attendance, as well as a few delegates, who were very adamant about wanting this to remain a golf course. People from the White Marsh/Kingsville Recreation Council showed their support by attending the community meeting, even offering to donate money for the development of this site. Mr. Barrett stated that the Revenue Authority made this decision because they were not making any money. Mr. Barrett is very happy to have this facility and would like to see it as an active recreation site with fields, pathways and a community center. The community wants basketball and a gymnasium. The department obtained this property at zero cost. The property consists of 120 acres, 80 of which the department would define as usable. The

Schmidt Property is next to this site and that acreage is there as well. Currently, there is no budget to develop the site but the department is trying to obtain study money with the intent to have a plan designed after the second community meeting this fall. The Northeast Area Recreation Office has moved into this 10,000 sq. ft. facility. The “mini community center” facility will be used for programming. There are two standard size community center buildings; one is 9,700 sq. ft. and the other is 13,000 sq. ft. Mr. Barrett stated that the 13,000 sq. ft. community center would be ideal at this facility. Mr. Definbaugh inquired about whether or not the department could do at this site what they did at Randallstown. Mr. Barrett responded stating that there is room to do this but the department will probably not do any more pools. They are difficult and expensive.

Action:

Discussion took place regarding where to hold the June board meeting. Jacob Smith motioned to have the meeting at the new Randallstown Community Center, David Smylie seconded and all were in favor. Jacob Smith motioned to have the meeting begin at 6:00 pm, Emmet Davitt seconded and all were in favor.

Wayne Definbaugh motioned to name a field at Meadowood in memory of Mike Davis, Jacob Smith seconded and all were in favor.

Discussion regarding the November board meeting date has been moved to next month’s agenda.

Jacob Smith motioned to follow up with the local recreation council regarding the naming of the bridge at Honeygo after Gerry Soukup. Mike Weber seconded and all were in favor.

Jacob Smith motioned to have the Council Certification/Audit Form returned by October 1, Wayne Definbaugh seconded and all were in favor.

Jacob Smith motioned to accept the “Affiliate Organization” document with the amendment proposed by Steve Verch. Dunbar Brooks seconded, David Smylie abstained and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Jacob Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Emmet Davitt seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter