

**Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
June 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 6:12pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Chairman Steve Verch; Vice Chairman Wayne Definbaugh; board members Steven Kroll, David Smylie, Althea Page and Jacob Smith. Staff included 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 POS money and suggested a minor change in wording. Jacob Smith motioned to approve the May board meeting minutes, with the proposed change, Wayne Definbaugh seconded and all were in favor.

Announcements:

The Hawthorne Trail Dedication is scheduled for June 24 at 10:30 am.

Summer Camps are scheduled to begin June 22 and 29; Therapeutic Camps to begin July 6.

Old Business:

Deputy Director Bud Chrismer addressed the board regarding the discussion at the last board meeting, about affiliate organizations. There may have been an oversight, which would be cause for the board to review this subject again. Affiliate organizations do not receive money from the County. This would include Liberty Road Baseball. We have been paying for Liberty Road Baseball to have their fields lined. The board's vote at last month's meeting could put the Department and Liberty Road Baseball in a bind. In addition to Liberty Road, Arbutus and Essex Baseball are in the same situation. We need to revisit this as well as look into how many others are in this situation. These groups were before recreation councils and may need to be grandfathered in. The board should think about this and if needed, Mr. Chrismer and Marty Stoelting can work on this.

Regarding the Report to the County Executive/The Definbaugh Committee, Vice Chairman Wayne Definbaugh is to meet with committee members about this.

Chairman Steve Verch was to follow up with Don Kuklinski regarding naming a field after Gerry Soukup. Mr. Verch reported that Mr. Kuklinski stated that the Council is not supportive of this. There is no motion and this shall be taken off the agenda.

New Business:

Mr. Verch received a letter from Patricia Paul regarding the inaccurate notion of her resignation from a program within the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council. Ms. Paul is appealing the decision of the recreation council to accept her decision to resign, because Ms. Paul states she did not resign. Ms. Paul would like the board to look into this and get back to her. Dunbar Brooks will investigate this matter and get in touch with Mr. Verch.

Mr. Definbaugh informed the board about the discontinuation of the Honeygo Dance Program. Mr. Definbaugh is currently looking into whether the offerings under the discontinued dance program will somehow be offered to the community. Mr. Verch stated that he had attended the dance recital and there was many in attendance. Mr. Definbaugh reported that there are two dance programs, the Honeygo Dance Program and the Chapel Hill Dance Program. The Honeygo Dance Program has been running in the red for the past seven years. The program currently has \$300, and there are still outstanding funds that need to be collected. Mr. Definbaugh has obtained all documents for the program and is currently still looking over them. Mr. Definbaugh stated that it is his understanding that the Honeygo Dance Program is to merge into Chapel Hill program. Mr. Definbaugh reported that Honeygo charges 2 ¼ times more than what Chapel Hill charges and they still go over budget. Mr. Definbaugh further stated that the main concern is to make sure Hip Hop and Modern Dance is included in the Chapel Hill program.

The Keyser Property is a 42-acre parcel located on the north side of Cockeyesmill Road. The contract price for the property is \$1.159 million. This parcel would be more of a natural setting with trails and nature programs. This goes to Council July 6. Jacob Smith inquired as to why the Department wouldn't plan to have ball fields on a property this size. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that the Department always holds Community Meetings at which time the community can voice their "wants" and "don't wants". If this is something that the community would like to see on this land, they should attend the community meeting and advocate for it.

Mr. Smith inquired about turf fields. Mr. Chrismer stated that Honeygo is the last field to be completed and we are close to the release date. This will give the Department a total of 13 artificial turf fields. Each field costs \$800,000 with lighting. This year the Department is receiving \$836,000 in POS funds. Mr. Smith asked whether all Joint Use Agreements have been signed. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that CCBC still needs to be signed.

At last month's board meeting, the board discussed the Council Certification/Audit Form. Mr. Verch was to bring these forms with him to this meeting but had not followed up with Ms. Stoelting. Mr. Verch and Ms. Stoelting are to follow up and have these forms at the next meeting. Steven Kroll stated that the board is one year behind in getting these out but the time of year is as it should be.

Mr. Verch informed board members of the request to name Hawthorne Trail for Douglas Tomcek. Mr. Tomcek is very active in this area and the Hawthorne Civic Association and is one of the prime movers in the trail network. Chuck Munzert spoke to Norman Knoerlein and the middle River Recreation Council about recognizing Mr. Tomcek by placing a sign on the Hawthorne Trail.

Mr. Verch reported to the board that Charlie Nicely, Commissioner of Baseball, raised the issue of paid leaders ineligibility to serve as council officers and/or directors. The Middle River Recreation Council has a concern about finding people to serve as community leaders. Mr. Nicely wants to see community leaders serve as officers or directors on councils. This is a conflict and is not permitted by board rules. Mr. Verch had told Mr. Nicely that he would have this on the board agenda. Mr. Kroll responded stating that the board has gone over this issue too many times and believes there is no reason to revisit the subject. Mr. Definbaugh agreed.

Mr. Kroll suggested that the chairman of the board contact the director of Recreation and Parks in an effort to fill vacancies on the board. Councilman Moxley is to appoint a student representative.

Board members all agreed that the new Randallstown Community Center is a wonderful facility. The contact at this facility is Shawn Elbert.

Director's Comments:

The Northeast/Northern Area President's Meeting was held on May 28. The meeting primarily focused on the Perring Racquet Club acquisition and the renovations that are planned. The Eastern Area President's Meeting was held June 4.

Mr. Chrismer discussed the renovations scheduled to take place at Perring. Mr. Chrismer stated he has every confidence that renovations will be completed on schedule. The renovations were originally scheduled to be completed within 60 days, but this time frame was extended to 120 days. Renovations included new lights over fields, sprinkler system and making the facility ADA compliant. There is currently no money for basketball. In addition, anyone currently playing tennis is encouraged to go to a nearby recreation council and participate in the program there.

The Lax Splash Tournament was very successful, as Steven Kroll agreed. There were 350 teams that participated and folks did a great job getting games in around the poor weather.

Action:

David Smylie motioned to table the issue regarding Patricia Paul until the next board meeting, to allow time for Dunbar Brooks to speak to Ms. Paul and obtain additional details regarding this matter. Wayne Definbaugh seconded and all were in favor.

Steven Kroll motioned to recognize Doug Tomcek by placing a sign on the Hawthorne Trail. Wayne Definbaugh seconded and all were in favor.

Steve Verch suggested holding the next board meeting at Mt. Vista Park. Steven Kroll motioned to do so, Althea Page seconded and all were in favor.

The November meeting of the Board of Recreation and Parks was originally scheduled for November 11, but this is Veterans Day and County Government is closed. Steven Kroll stated that in years past the board has met the day before the originally scheduled date. Wayne Definbaugh motioned to hold the November board meeting on Tuesday, November 10. Steven Kroll seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Wayne Definbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting, David Smylie seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter