

**Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
July 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at 6:18pm at Mt. Vista Park, Kingsville, Maryland. In attendance were Vice Chairman Wayne Definbaugh; board members Steven Kroll, David Smylie, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks and Mike Weber. Staff included Bud Chrismer, deputy director and Marty Stoelting, chief of recreation services. Also in attendance was Suzy Boche, Seventh District Recreation Council president and Judy Sibol and Linda Krach of Kingsville Recreation.

Approval of Minutes:

Steven Kroll motioned to approve the June board meeting minutes, Althea Page seconded and all were in favor.

Announcements:

The Hannah More stage inaugural show is scheduled for July 18, with a performance by the Reisterstown Jazz Ensemble.

The dedication of the Dundalk Community Center is scheduled for July 23 at 11 am.

The Arbutus Community Center Groundbreaking is scheduled for August 25 at 11 am.

Marty Stoelting informed the board that a sign has been ordered for the field dedication for Mike Davis. Director Bob Barrett is to contact the family and hopes to set a date in August so Mr. Davis' children are present. They intend to keep the dedication ceremony low key.

Old Business:

Regarding the Honeygo Dance Program, Vice Chairman Wayne Definbaugh reported that he had attended the June 24 council meeting where there was a 5-0 vote to eliminate the program, and two instructors were let go. There were about 15 children and 6 parents in attendance. Mr. Definbaugh stated that there was talk regarding the merge of the programs but that Chapel Hill does not offer all of the same dance programs. Mr. Definbaugh is working with them to get the programs there. Mr. Definbaugh further stated that he saw discrepancies in the by-laws and thus provided them with two sample by-laws to help them on the right track. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the proposed constitution and by-laws should come before the board in September or October.

The Definbaugh Committee met last night regarding the role of the board, the report to the County Executive and affiliate organizations. Mike Weber stated that Chairman Steve Verch wants to make sure that the report submitted to the County Executive is accurate and thus all board members agree that clarification is needed on the role and responsibility of the board. The committee will compile a report after tonight's meeting and send to board members via email. The question arose and discussion ensued regarding whether the board is an advisory board or an oversight board. The board needs to know what "advisory" is so when the public comes before them for conflict resolution, they know what they need to do. They need to know their role, their bounds and their authority.

New Business:

Judy Sibol and Linda Krach came before the board regarding the Kingsville Recreation Council and their desperate need for an indoor facility. They stated that they are currently using space through Perry Hall, White Marsh and Bengies-Chase Recreation Councils. Kingsville Recreation still has to turn away hundreds of children due to lack of space. Basketball, dance and indoor soccer are very popular, and Kingsville Recreation is paying top dollar to use space at a private indoor facility.

Mr. Weber stated that you couldn't just go to a nearby recreation council, like Perry Hall, and expect to play there; they have a waiting list. The ladies stated that this area is unique in that they have no middle or high schools to utilize and the elementary school cannot accommodate their needs. Dance participants have been injured because they do not have the proper equipment; they need a safe haven. Kingsville would utilize the indoor facility to its maximum.

Ms. Sibol and Ms. Krach stated that the Edgewood Recreation Center or the Churchville Recreation Center would be wonderful to model from. They also inquired about the Mt. Vista site. They are not familiar with Perring but stated that they don't believe this would serve their needs because other areas would have use of the site as well. Both children and adults of Kingsville would benefit immensely from an indoor facility.

In regards to Kingsville Park, the ladies inquired about the lines for the parking lot stating that people are parking all over, and it is not safe. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer informed Ms. Sibol and Ms. Krach that the Department has a contractor ready to go; this will be taken care of soon. In addition, the Department will hold another community meeting and would be happy to notify them of this when they have a date.

Suzy Boche came before the board regarding the proposed changes to the Seventh District Constitution and By-Laws. Brief discussion took place amongst board members and Ms. Boche regarding the proposed changes and then the board took a vote. In addition, board members inquired as to whether or not Seventh District would be interested in merging with Hereford and Ms. Boche responded that they do not have a desire to merge stating they would not benefit, they would simply go to the bottom of the totem pole if this were to happen.

David Smylie addressed the board regarding the issues surrounding the Woodlawn Recreation Council. There are several issues currently going on including no accounting of funds, no audit in the last 6-8 years, presently no treasurer in place and one person signing checks instead of two. Mr. Smylie is to attend the next council meeting along with Steven Kroll. Mr. Kroll stated that this is the second time there have been issues with the Woodlawn Recreation Council in the last three years. Mr. Kroll stated that he would attempt to write a summary and send to all board members, for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Definbaugh stated that the council should find where misappropriations of funds are and file a police report. Mr. Definbaugh reported that the Attorney General determined new guidelines for 501(c)(3). There is a minimum fee of \$300 to file, which not all recreation councils can afford. Mr. Weber and Althea Page suggested forming a committee to show others how to become a 501(c)(3). All recreation council presidents, where the council is not yet a 501(c)(3), would be invited to attend a seminar/workshop to learn and be encouraged to file.

Ms. Page would like to see workshops for treasurers to attend and would like to discuss this further at the next meeting. Mr. Chrismer stated that in the past, the County had conferences/seminars and recreation councils were invited to attend. Topics of discussion included law, insurance and finance. They were scheduled on Saturday mornings and were well attended. Mr. Chrismer recommended including the idea in the cover letter sent to all council presidents when the certification and audit forms are sent out. This way we can obtain feedback on whether they are interested in attending and what the topics of interest are. Ms. Page suggested having four sessions/workshops about 30 minutes long and having this at a location where those in attendance have access to a computer.

The board reviewed and discussed the certification and audit forms and approved them with one change to the certification form. Section 1-A should now state that the board, not the area coordinator, approves the constitution and by-laws.

Dunbar Brooks spoke to Neil Magness regarding Patricia Paul and the letter the board received. Mr. Brooks reported that Ms. Paul had overstepped her bounds and does not appear trustworthy; she is not a person the recreation council can work with. Mr. Brooks further stated that this is an internal recreation council matter and should be dealt with as such; the board will not act upon Ms. Paul's request. Mr. Verch shall write a letter to Ms. Paul informing her of the board's position.

Mr. Smylie informed the board that he knows someone who would be great to sit on the board as the student representative. This gentleman has been involved in recreation since he was five and is now getting ready to enter the twelfth grade. Mr. Smylie was instructed to have this gentleman write a letter to Mr. Barrett.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Chrismer informed the board that the June 24 dedication of the Hawthorne Trail went very well. Norman Knoerlein did a great job, and the County Executive and children in attendance rode their bikes through the tape. Doug Tomcek was very surprised and gave a great speech.

The Department of Recreation and Parks 60th Anniversary Bull Roast is scheduled for October 3 at Oregon Ridge. Tickets are on sale for \$30 each; 400 people are expected to attend. Recreation councils are buying tables and getting involved. Jean Tansey is working on this event, heading up a very large committee.

Mr. Chrismer and Ms. Tansey are to attend a meeting July 16 regarding the sewer and water extension at Meadowood Regional Park.

Action:

David Smylie motioned to accept the proposed Seventh District Constitution and By-Laws, Dunbar Brooks seconded and all were in favor.

Althea Page motioned to approve the Application for Certification and Audit Verification Form, with the correction to Section 1-A (discussed under "new business"), Dunbar Brooks seconded and all were in favor.

Steven Kroll motioned to not act upon Patricia Paul's request and let the recreation council handle this matter, Mike Weber seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Steven Kroll moved to adjourn the meeting, Mike Weber seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter