

**Baltimore County  
Board of Recreation and Parks  
September 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at 6:23pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Chairman Stephen Verch; board members Steven Kroll, David Smylie, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks and Mike Weber. Staff included Bud Chrismer, deputy director; Marty Stoelting, chief of recreation services and Behta Davis, nature & recreation resources area coordinator. Also in attendance was Mary Gruver-Byers, Marshy Point Nature Center Recreation Council president and Mike Pierce, Cromwell Valley Park Recreation Council president.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**Announcements:**

The Cromwell Valley Park Fall Festival is October 11. In addition, Cromwell Valley Park features a community garden where the public can purchase shares and items are grown and distributed.

The opening of the CCBC Dundalk Artificial Turf Field is scheduled for September 11 at 6:15 pm.

The Department's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is scheduled for October 3, from 7-11 pm at Oregon Ridge.

The MOU signing for Robert E. Lee Park has been tentatively scheduled for October 6.

The Fall Soccer Clinic for the Southeast Regional Recreation Center is scheduled for October 9 at 7 pm.

The Banneker Cabin dedication has been tentatively scheduled for November 14.

The Shining Star Awards Ceremony is scheduled for December 7 in the Council Chambers and is always a great event for board members to attend.

David Smylie was asked to be the first chair of the Advisory Board for Randallstown Community Center-Congratulations Dave!

**Old Business:**

David Smylie informed the board that Vivian Jefferson of Woodlawn contacted Chairman Steve Verch regarding the issues surrounding the Woodlawn Recreation Council. Mr. Verch asked that Mr. Smylie contact Ms. Jefferson and look into the issues surrounding this recreation council. In addition, Councilman Oliver was also contacted by Ms. Jefferson, prompting him to forward a memo to Director Bob Barrett regarding concerns of the council's financial operations.

Mr. Smylie reported that he attended the recreation council meeting and further stated that it was the worst council meeting he has ever witnessed. Mr. Smylie stated the council has not had an audit in 6-8 years, they have no treasurer, only one person is signing checks, the council by-laws are very old, and there is an issue with the way they conduct their voting. Ms. Jefferson is very frustrated and has called on the board, has called Councilman Oliver and Mr. Barrett. She has voiced her concerns about the way the council is operating, stating the council is not running as it should. She has offered to pay for an audit and was denied. In addition, she has requested to see the council's books and, again, was denied. Ms. Jefferson stated the council has no oversight, they are not tracking funds, and there is no appeal process; they simply do whatever they want.

Mr. Verch inquired as to whether the council has opened their books to members. Mr. Smylie stated that they have not. Maurice Watkins, community supervisor for the Woodlawn Recreation Office, is doing all he can do, but he can only do so much. Marty Stoelting stated she thinks this council is in trouble. She thinks the programs will continue to run but she is not certain about the council. Mr. Smylie stated that something needs to be done. Discussion ensued among those in attendance regarding the issues surrounding the recreation council and possible action to be taken.

In response to the letter received from Councilman Oliver, the board discussed inviting the Woodlawn Recreation Council Executive Board to the next meeting. Ms. Stoelting suggested that the letter of invite be sent to council president Carroll Watkins.

In regards to the Report to the County Executive, Mr. Verch handed out a draft to board members and asked for their feedback.

Steven Kroll inquired about whether any new board members have been appointed as well as a student representative and Mr. Verch stated that he has not been informed of any new appointees.

Althea Page inquired about workshops and when this would happen. Mr. Verch responded that he would like to appoint Ms. Page as the chair for this new committee matter. The County just held a 501 (c)(3) Seminar. Lea Petr would know if the County plans to schedule another.

### **New Business:**

Mary Gruver-Byers, president of the Marshy Point Nature Center Recreation Council, came before the board with the council's proposed constitution and by-laws. Ms. Byers stated that the current constitution and by-laws were last revised in 2002. She stated that the council was trying to clean things up, re-organize, streamline and clarify and further stated that there were no major changes to the constitution and by-laws. The board reviewed the proposed constitution and by-laws and voted on them.

Mike Pierce, president of the Cromwell Valley Park Recreation Council, came before the board with the council's proposed constitution and by-laws. Mr. Pierce stated that the Council was cleaning things up, straightening out verbiage. The current constitution and by-laws were last revised in 2005. Proposed changes include changing the fiscal year from July to January, the number of general meetings totaling two a year, and the position of leaseholders. Mr. Verch questioned the council policy regarding appeals. Mr. Pierce stated that they defer to Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Verch inquired as to whether Mr. Pierce would be inclined to include under procedures that appeals

are subject to Robert's Rules of Order, and Mr. Pierce stated that he would discuss this with the council's executive board.

Mr. Verch stated that a member of the Chestnut Woods Community Association came to him regarding the concession next to the 90 ft diamond at Middle River Middle School and the trash that the football program leaves behind. A member of the community association stated that the football program turns out many from the community, who park in Chestnut Woods, and who reportedly leave a lot of trash behind. Mr. Verch inquired as to whether it would be possible to get a drum placed at the opening of the fence to help with this situation. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer responded that he believes the Department has already taken care of this.

Deborah Fetchik, president of the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council, submitted a letter regarding former council president, Bruce Mills. Mr. Mills, who passed away last August, was very active in recreation in the Dundalk community. The recreation council has requested a tree be planted in Heritage Park in honor of Mr. Mills. Dunbar Brooks motioned to honor the request to have a tree planted in Heritage Park in honor of Mr. Mills, Ms. Page seconded but a vote was not taken because there was discussion of other ways to honor Mr. Mills. Mr. Brooks will call Ms. Fetchik and inform her of the other options available, including naming the gym in Dundalk Community Center, name on scoreboard, or naming the football field at Chesterwood in his honor.

### **Director's Comments:**

Mr. Chrismer reported that the Hannah More stage inaugural show went well, as did the dedication of the Dundalk Community Center. In addition, the Arbutus Community Center groundbreaking was very well attended and the Hawthorne Bike Trail dedication was a huge success. In regards to the Mike Davis field dedication, Mr. Chrismer reported that the family was very pleased.

The County is currently in the feasibility study for the Keyser Property, a 50-acre parcel of land with area for trails. In addition, the County closed today on the 13-acre Girls Life Property (fka Peerce's). In regards to Perring, Ms. Stoelting informed the board they are 71% complete. The glass is in around the field and the facility is gutted. The contractors are working hard to finish by the end of September. The Department has a staff person assigned to this facility who is ready to move into the building. There was talk regarding the potential problem there may be in getting all the floor tiles needed; this may be cause for delay. Once the contractor is finished, the board would like to have a meeting at this facility.

In regards to budget, the Department spent almost every penny out of the operating budget and are in the process of beginning to gather information for the FY11 budget. Ms. Page inquired about walking paths and stimulus money for such. Mr. Chrismer responded stating he was not familiar with this but would look into it.

### **Action:**

David Smylie motioned to approve the proposed Marshy Point Nature Center Constitution and By-Laws, Dunbar Brooks seconded and all were in favor.

Mike Weber motioned to hold the proposed Cromwell Valley Park Constitution and By-Laws pending possible further review with regard to council appellate language, Dunbar Brooks seconded and all were in favor.

Steven Kroll motioned to invite the Woodlawn Recreation Council Executive Board to the next board meeting, Dunbar Brooks seconded and all were in favor.

Steven Verch motioned to appoint Althea Page as Chair of the Workshops Incorporation Committee, 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 7:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter