

**Baltimore County  
Board of Recreation and Parks  
January 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 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 Mike Milani, Steven Kroll, Dunbar Brooks, Mike Weber and Jacob Smith. Staff included Bud Chrismer, deputy director; David Carroll, director, Office of Sustainability; Gene Swackhamer, vice president, BCARC Board of Directors and Theresa Webb, parent.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**Announcements:**

The Boys' Lacrosse Clinic is scheduled for January 30 at 9 am, at Towson University.

The Girls' Lacrosse Clinic is scheduled for February 13 from 11 am to 2 pm, at the Ravens Facility.

Deputy Director Bud Chrismer reported that he attended the Catonsville Christmas Dinner, which was held at Banneker Community Center in conjunction with the Community Assistance Network. Mr. Chrismer stated that Head Start was there volunteering their time. Every child in attendance received a coat donated by Walmart.

The Karll Trust Community Meeting is scheduled for February 22 at 7 pm, at Edgemere Elementary School – cafeteria.

The first meeting of the Robert E. Lee Park Advisory Board is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, at the Towson Library.

**Old Business:**

Steven Kroll reported that he and Dave Smylie are to meet with the Woodlawn Recreation Council Executive Board before the next board meeting. Mr. Kroll further stated that board members seem to be very receptive to meet with he and Mr. Smylie and to resolving issues.

The report to the County Executive is tabled at this point.

In regards to Joint Use, Jacob Smith informed the board that Reisterstown was bumped from a permit at Franklin High School. Mr. Smith wants to know what is going on and whether the athletic director at Franklin has been spoken to. This AD has been recognized as a problem and is reportedly very uncooperative. Mr. Smith would like a response from the department. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that the AD is not to have any say in these matters and has been spoken to. Mr. Chrismer stated that he would have Amy DiAngelo bring in all information tomorrow from tonight's recreation council meeting, and he would discuss this issue with the Board of Education at their

quarterly meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Mike Milani inquired about the turf field agreement and was informed that an agreement has already been formalized. Discussion regarding the agreement ensued. Mr. Milani requested a copy of the agreement. Mr. Smith further discussed with the board the issues he has with the AD at Franklin. Mr. Milani responded stating that every recreation council has issues with use of school sites. Mr. Chrismer stated that there have not been reports regarding issues at every school, just Franklin and Hereford. Mr. Chrismer has been asking staff to report specific instances, including dates and times, so that the department may address this with BCPS.

### **New Business:**

David Carroll addressed the board regarding the Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center (BCARC) and introduced Gene Swackhamer, a member of the board of Directors for the BCARC. Mr. Carroll informed board members that the BCARC plans to come before the board next month to make a formal request to be recognized as a "very specialized" recreation council, a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. Mr. Carroll stated that he has been working with this group for some time now, locating and purchasing land, and developing the agricultural center.

Mr. Carroll informed board members about the ag center and passed out a BCARC information pamphlet as well. Mr. Carroll also informed board members that he went through an extensive process for this site with the Steering Committee to develop a Master Plan. The core building at the BCARC will house many groups including the Soil Conversation District, Extension Services and Recreation and Parks. The center will have active agricultural fields and will work with 4-H Clubs and the Master Gardener Program. In addition, Mr. Carroll stated that they would like the BCARC to give school children the agricultural experience equal to the nature experience they receive when they visit Marshy Point Nature Center. The site would have recreation possibilities with a trail system and will also have signage and education material to serve as casual learning. Mr. Carroll also stated that they would like to have a vineyard on site as well. Mr. Carroll reported that the County would run the facility.

Mr. Carroll was available to answer questions from the board. Mr. Smith inquired about the education aspect of the BCARC. Mr. Carroll replied stating that Nancy Grasmick is interested in providing transportation to the ag center. Chairman Steve Verch inquired as to whether the BCARC was working with any timetable for approval. Mr. Carroll responded stating that the group would like to get formal acknowledgement as a recreation council at the next board meeting. They have already begun fundraising, and the center is scheduled to open early October 2010. Mr. Verch requested that Mr. Carroll get the BCARC's draft Constitution and By-Laws to the board for their review before the next board meeting.

Theresa Webb came before the board to voice her concerns with the Sparrows Point Recreation Council. Her daughter has played co-ed soccer through the recreation council, has never had a problem playing co-ed, and really enjoys being able to do so, given that at the high school level she is restricted to playing on an all girls team. This year, Pete Christianson, council president, decided that there would no longer be a co-ed team at this level, believing the level of play would get better if the girls were not on the team. Ms. Webb stated that Mr. Christianson is hoping that if he changed the rules that all other teams in the Southeast Area would follow suit. Ms. Webb's daughter was forced to sign up for the girls' team. When Ray Weinrick, soccer chair, attended the recreation council board meeting to discuss this issue, he was told the issue was closed. Ms. Webb informed

the board that at the SERRC, the boys' teams from the Sparrows Point Recreation Council are playing against all co-ed teams.

Ms. Webb reported that the under 7 team did not have enough boys to fill the roster and, because of this, are allowed to remain co-ed. Ms. Webb stated that Edgemere-Sparrows Point has an all boys travel league and if you would prefer to play on an all boys team, you can play on this team. Ms. Webb further stated that she was then told that she was not a resident of this area and needed to find another league.

Mr. Milani inquired about whether or not there were league rules stating that you must have a certain number of females on the roster for a co-ed team. Ms. Webb replied stating that there is no such rule. Ms. Webb stated that the recreation council is turning away girls that want to play co-ed. This is not a situation where the girls are not signing up. Vice Chairman Wayne Definbaugh stated that it sounds like the recreation council is stacking the team. Ms. Webb stated that the council should not be allowed to tell these girls they can't play when the league is set up for co-ed teams. Ms. Webb stated that unfortunately, there is nothing in the council by-laws that specifically state that you must allow co-ed teams, something that she was told is going to be changed.

Ms. Webb's daughter has participated in this recreation council, year after year, playing soccer, lacrosse and football and has even participated in the haunted dungeons. And for years, Ms. Webb was a voting member at board meetings. Ms. Webb stated that Mr. Christianson stated that until Baltimore County tells him he has to, no girls will be on this team. Ms. Webb stated that her daughter will not be participating anymore in Sparrows Point Recreation Council programs, but something like this should not be allowed to happen. If boys don't want to play on a co-ed team, then the council should offer all three options (a girls team, a boys team and a co-ed team). Mr. Definbaugh stated that he would like to standardize the by-laws; that the NERRC, RRP and SERRC have advisory boards. Dunbar Brooks inquired about the timeline for the change to be effective to the by-laws, as Ms. Webb had mentioned was to take place. Mr. Brooks is to look into this and further stated that he would talk to Mr. Weinrick.

Ms. Webb stated that this is all being done to gain a competitive advantage, and all other teams will follow suit. A lot of the recreation councils in the area struggle to have enough girls to fill a team or enough boys to fill a team. If segregation happens, there won't be any teams. Ms. Webb concluded by stating that the girls that want to play on the co-ed team should not be turned away; and furthermore, the now all boys team should not be permitted to play in the co-ed league. The board will get back to Ms. Webb after they look into this issue.

As further discussion ensued amongst board members regarding this issue, Mr. Verch stated that Mr. Brooks should extend an invitation to the recreation council so the board may hear the other side of the story.

Board members discussed the issue of certain months within the year that are considered non-travel months. Mr. Smith motioned to travel every month possible, to go out and see the facilities. Mike Weber seconded the motion. Mr. Milani inquired about travel, assuming Towson was the centralized point for everyone. Mr. Kroll stated that there is a problem with traveling all the time because if there is an issue, and someone needs to come before the board, they want to come to Towson. Mr. Kroll does agree that the board should travel and see the facilities. Mr. Verch stated the minutes should read that the board is not opposed under any present of restrictions, under any

period of year, that we have to meet in Towson. Mr. Verch stated that the next board meeting should be held at Victory Villa. If this is unavailable, the board can meet at Eastern Regional or Bengies Chase Recreation Center. Board members then discussed meeting start time and Mr. Milani motioned to have board meetings begin at 6:30 pm. Mr. Definbaugh seconded but Mr. Smith and Mr. Weber were opposed to this. Mr. Milani withdrew his motion.

Board members were asked to review their information and email any changes to board secretary.

Mr. Verch reported that the chairs at Victory Villa need to be replaced. In addition, Mr. Verch reported that the lights have been on now for more than a month at Eastern Regional Park. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that he was going to look into this to see if department staff had been notified of this.

Mr. Verch inquired about the pocket park that was to be part of the Waterview development; the developer gave the department a check. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that the department did receive a check but that this was not the deal, the developer was to build the park. The department never cashed the check.

Mr. Verch inquired about the status of the Wampler Road Property. Mr. Chrismer stated that this was not on the department's acquisition list.

In regards to the proposed 2010 Board Meeting Schedule, Mr. Verch stated that this would be discussed at next month's meeting.

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

Mr. Chrismer reported that the department's operating budget request is due on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the capital budget is getting put together to go before the Planning Board on the 26<sup>th</sup>. He and Jean Tansey are to attend. Mr. Chrismer informed board members that he, Ms. Tansey and Pat McDougall all attended a Legislative Seminar in Annapolis, with those in attendance from the state Senate as well as MRPA, regarding POS funds. Mr. Chrismer stated that the department is not expecting any POS money, which is what they accounted for in the capital budget. Mr. Verch inquired about the \$6.1 million figure reported in the minutes from last month's meeting and wanted to know what this money was for. Mr. Chrismer recalled that a portion of this money was for Bauer Farm and the Towson Y.

Bauer Farm is still on hold with the review of Phase II of the environmental study, with the State as the driving force behind this.

Mr. Chrismer stated that the website is still not set up but that it would be next month. Mr. Chrismer will have a laptop at the next meeting to show board members.

### **Action:**

Jacob Smith motioned to travel every month the board can, without restrictions, to see the many facilities. Mike Weber seconded and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Jacob Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Dunbar Brooks seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter