

**Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
March 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The Annual Dinner Meeting between the Board of Recreation and Parks and County Council Membership was held on Monday, March 15, 2010, at 5:00pm in the County Council Library. The monthly meeting of the Board of Recreation and Parks was held immediately following, at 6:03pm. In attendance were Chairman Steve Verch; board members Mike Milani, Steven Kroll, David Smylie, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks, Mike Weber and Jacob Smith. Staff included Bob Barrett, director; Bud Chrismer, deputy director; Marty Stoelting, chief, Recreation Services; David Carroll, director, Office of Sustainability; Gene Swackhamer, chairman, BCARC Board of Directors and Mike Spencer, president.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Announcements:

Steven Kroll attended the lacrosse clinic held at the Ravens Facility and reported that it is an annual event that never fails.

Mr. Brooks informed board members that work has begun on the multi purpose center at Turners Station.

Jacob Smith reported that the Disabled National Hockey Festival is scheduled for April 8-11, at Gardens Ice Rink, in Laurel.

Chairman Steve Verch attended the Popsicle Plunge...and took the plunge, stating that it was a great event for the family.

Althea Page will chair the Nominating Committee. Anyone who would like to assist is asked to please contact her.

Old Business:

In regards to the Woodlawn Recreation Council, David Smylie reported that there is no new information at this time. Due to the poor weather, he has not been able to schedule a meeting with the Executive Board but hopes to schedule something in the near future. Mr. Smylie reported that there have been no new complaints or concerns but stated that the issues originally brought before the board still need to be addressed. Mr. Verch questioned whether the recreation council would like to send members to attend the next board meeting. Mr. Smylie responded stating that it would be more productive to adhere to the plan of he and Mr. Kroll meeting with the Executive Board to ascertain their take on the concerns that have been verbalized. Mr. Smylie stated that the response may be that they have a new board and that this is something in the past, but he feels that the council needs to understand that the Board of Recreation and Parks wants to make sure they are operating properly so the same issues do not occur. Mr. Kroll agrees with Mr. Smylie and requested that Marty Stoelting arrange this with the community supervisor.

Mr. Brooks reported that he has not yet spoken to Pete Christensen or Ray Weinrick regarding the concerns Theresa Webb discussed with the board regarding Sparrows Point Recreation Council; he did not yet obtain their phone numbers. Mr. Brooks did speak to Ms. Webb again but further stated that before any decision can be made, the board needs to hear the other side of the story.

Mr. Verch inquired about getting chairs for Victory Villa. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer responded stating that depending upon how much money we get in our budget, we have put in a request for chairs and tables at Oregon Ridge. Mr. Chrismer stated that the chairs and tables still in good condition would then be farmed out.

New Business:

David Carroll addressed the board regarding the Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center (BCARC) and introduced Gene Swackhamer and Mike Spencer. Mr. Carroll stated that January was the background meeting for discussion regarding the BCARC, and refreshed the board members by reviewing some of this information. Mr. Carroll stated that they are thinking of opening the facility, early fall.

In addition to the background information, Mr. Carroll discussed the scope of the BCARC Council. The Council would have no boundaries, per say, and would not be part of a community/neighborhood. The BCARC would be available to residents all over Maryland and Mr. Carroll stated that he is looking forward to support from those all over the state. In regards to the audit statement, the BCARC would have traditional board structure. The BCARC is affiliated with the Farm Bureau (consisting of over 4,700 members), working with them as well as other organizations as a network. Mr. Carroll stated that he is looking forward to this relationship, eager to move forward and would like to be ready when the center opens.

Ms. Page stated that she would like a definition of exactly what the center is so that there would be no ambiguity. Mr. Carroll stated that the center is owned and operated by Baltimore County, and that BCARC is a partnership. Ms. Page went on to inquire about sections within the proposed by-laws that she had concerns with, as did fellow board members. Mr. Carroll, Mr. Swackhamer and Mr. Spencer addressed each concern. Board members voted to grant conditional approval. Mr. Swackhamer will provide the board with amended by-laws.

Board members were instructed to review the letter in their packets from the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council. This is a formal request to have the football field at Chesterwood Park named in honor of the late council president, Bruce Mills. The board took a vote.

Mr. Chrismer informed the board that the 60th Anniversary Bull Roast made a profit of \$3,032 and staff discussed the idea of having a seminar for recreation councils/volunteers, something the board has discussed for some time now. Mr. Chrismer proposed that the board, with the assistance of department staff, put the seminar together and use this money to assist (i.e. to hire someone for the seminar or purchase food). Mr. Brooks stated that the PTA council holds a training day/night at a school site. Different topics are held in various classrooms, depending upon the number of subjects/topics to be covered. Mr. Brooks stated that this works very well. Mr. Chrismer stated that this sounds good, a way for the board to help out the recreation councils in a very tangible way. Mr. Chrismer suggested holding the seminar between seasons, possibly October or March.

Ms. Page is already heading the sub committee for seminar plans. Mr. Milani inquired about whether or not there is a policy manual for how the councils should operate. Mr. Verch responded stating there is not but feels that there is a great need for this. Mr. Smylie stated that there are many points in the letter the board received from Parkville Recreation Council, along with their application for certification, that make sense. The board understands that each recreation council operates differently but there needs to be standards on how the councils should operate. Discussion ensued regarding this matter and the idea of surveying each council. Board members decided that this matter warrants further board review. Mike Weber informed board members of the PTA guidelines; belonging to a member organization but running your own organization independently. Mr. Weber stated that he would obtain the guidelines, which can be modified by the board. This discussion will be tabled until this time. In the meantime, Mr. Chrismer stated that Ms. Stoelting would find out what topics the councils would be interested in.

Board members received requests to honor Vicki Gentile, longtime volunteer with the Edmondson-Westview Recreation Council and former Recreation and Parks Board Member. Mr. Milani stated that Ms. Gentile was an outstanding volunteer who did so much for the recreation council. Mr. Milani is to look into what the council wants to do to honor Ms. Gentile.

Mr. Verch discussed the 2010 board meeting schedule. The next meeting is with the Board of Education.

In regards to the Audit Form, Ms. Stoelting is to look into which councils have not yet returned this.

Director's Comments:

Director Bob Barrett reported that the budget has just been completed and submitted. Mr. Barrett stated that the budget is tight, a little less than last year. Mr. Barrett further stated that we were able to trim down right at the breaking point; hopefully the Council will see that the budget submitted is the one to go with.

In regards to Robert E. Lee Park, Mr. Barrett stated that when the County leases property, we are not given credit for our goals towards open space. The department made a request to the State; the request was granted which will allow us to include the almost 400 acres in our inventory.

In regards to POS money, Mr. Barrett reported that every dollar we have is frozen and there is no spending money at this time. The backfill money we have has not been encumbered to us, about \$8 million in bonds. This would get spread out and paid back to us, going into 2011, 2012 and 2013 fiscal year budget. Mr. Barrett stated that they are requesting that this not happen; instead, give us the money we had in reserve so we can spend it now.

Mr. Barrett reported that programs are on track now; due to the weather they had been pushed back.

Mr. Barrett reported on the water distribution in Reisterstown, stating that 75% of staffing was handled by the Department of Recreation and Parks at our facility. Mr. Barrett stated that the department worked great, stating that Ms. Stoelting headed this project and did a flawless job. Mr. Barrett further stated that he really appreciated the great job the staff did.

Mr. Barrett stated that we have put chairs and tables in our budget the last 7 years and it keeps getting cut. Mr. Barrett further stated that we may have a small surplus in leadership money and may be able to dip into this for chairs and tables. Mr. Verch responded stating that Ron Sommers, president, Middle River Recreation Council, would really appreciate this.

Action:

Dunbar Brooks motioned to grant conditional approval to BCARC with amended by-laws to be submitted. Jacob Smith seconded and all were in favor.

Jacob Smith motioned to grant the request of the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council to name the football field at Chesterwood Park in honor of Bruce Mills. Mike Weber seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Jacob Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Mike Milani seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter