

**Baltimore County  
Board of Recreation and Parks  
June 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, at 6:09 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Vice Chairman David Smylie; board members Steven Kroll, Althea Page, Stephen Verch, Mike Weber and Jacob Smith. Staff included Bob Barrett, director and Bud Chrismer, deputy director.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Jacob Smith motioned to approve the April board meeting minutes, Steven Kroll seconded and all were in favor.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Kroll stated that the Robert E. Lee Park Advisory Council is coming up on their fifth meeting and are 99% of the way there. They have worked very hard and anticipate attending the next board meeting to present their proposed by-laws. The park is scheduled to open July 2011.

Stephen Verch informed board members that the Marshy Point Nature Center Fish Fry is June 15 at 6 p.m.

Mr. Smith announced that he has accepted a position on the board for Baltimore Area Special Hockey, Inc. Mr. Smith stated that this is not a council program although they do receive grant money from the County. Director Bob Barrett responded stating that Arts & Sciences is a separate commission that resides in the Office of Economic Development. Mr. Barrett stated that after this year, he does not see a conflict. Mr. Kroll agrees. Mr. Verch suggested that Mr. Smith should note this in his Ethics Disclosure Form.

Mr. Barrett informed the board of the passing of Gary Arthur. Mr. Arthur was with the department and then the Director of Howard County Recreation & Parks.

Mr. Verch announced that he was resigning from the board.

**Old Business:**

Vice Chairman David Smylie reported that there is no news regarding Woodlawn; he has not heard anything. Mr. Smylie stated that he would still like to meet with them, possibly in August. Mr. Smylie will be in touch with Marty Stoelting.

In regards to the Sparrows Point Recreation Council issue, Dunbar Brooks is not in attendance and therefore, this item is tabled until the next board meeting.

The board reviewed the Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center By-Laws, which were to include their proposed changes, and noticed that the verbiage to Article 3, Section 3 has not been

changed. Mr. Verch stated that this section would be fine if the last sentence was deleted. Mr. Kroll stated that he would handle this by contacting Mike Spencer.

Mike Weber addressed the board regarding the Recreation Conference. Mr. Weber stated that they were hoping to hold the conference at Loch Raven but this location was not available. The conference will now be held at Towson High School. A copy of the letter that will be going out to all recreation council presidents has been included in board members folders for review. Mr. Weber informed board members that the conference has been done in the past.

Mr. Weber reported that Chief Johnson will assign someone to discuss background checks and the department can promote "You Care So Be Aware". In addition, Mr. Weber stated that he has someone who may be interested in handling the finance session. Mr. Weber stated that he is looking for board members to attend, to help facilitate and gain feedback. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer stated that there would be three sessions; each session will be offered twice, giving individuals the option to attend more than one. Mr. Verch inquired about whether anyone from the Law Office would be attending, regarding insurance. Mr. Barrett responded stating that he thought Bill Wiseman did an excellent job at the last conference. Mr. Barrett further stated that Mr. Wiseman kept it simple and people seemed to grasp what was being said. Mr. Barrett stated that he thinks having someone from the insurance division speaking would most likely confuse people; someone from the legal end would be more sufficient. Mr. Kroll stated that if Mr. Wiseman is not available to handle this session, he will. Mr. Kroll stated that he thought Mr. Wiseman did a great job, as well. Mr. Chrismer will ask Mr. Wiseman if he is available.

Board members reviewed and approved the request to honor Vickie Gentile.

### **New Business:**

Board members reviewed the request from Joyce Sparwasser to honor Helen Anderson and stated that it sounds as though the request is to name the park after Ms. Anderson, which is something the department does not do. Mr. Chrismer stated that he thinks the request is referring to the activity room, not the park. Mr. Barrett stated that this is a very big deal for them. Board members determined that the request was not clear thus Mr. Smylie would have Mr. Brooks contact Ms. Sparwasser.

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

Mr. Barrett gave special thanks to Mr. Kroll for undertaking the duty of serving as chair of the advisory committee for REL Park. In addition, Mr. Barrett thanked Mr. Smylie for serving as chair of the Randallstown Community Center Advisory Board.

Mr. Barrett informed board members that Arts & Sciences would be moving from Recreation & Parks to Economic Development. Mr. Barrett stated that he thinks this is the right place for them, a good match.

In regards to the budget, County Council did not make any cuts. Prior to the budget going before Council, the department made some cuts but Mr. Barrett stated that he is very pleased with this.

Mr. Barrett informed the board that there are a couple of acquisitions on the agenda, if we can be creative given that we do not have the money. The Huber Property, which is located in Middle River/Essex, would finish the County Executive's vision of renaissance. Mr. Chrismer stated that out of the 66 acres, the County is looking to purchase 46 acres. This has been appraised at \$4.5 million. Mr. Chrismer stated that he expects they would have to reduce the price. The Y Property is a priority issue for the department to acquire; we are looking to purchase the entire site and then let the Y lease back. We are still in negotiations with the state over Bauer Farm, located on the east side of the County. The state is to provide \$4 million through Waterway Improvement Funds for a boat ramp and parking, which the community has made clear they want. In addition, there is a parcel located on this property with a historical building in which the state would buy.

As for capital projects, Mr. Chrismer stated that we are moving ahead with lighting projects as well as tot lot mulch replacement. Mr. Barrett stated that we lost no POS nor did we lose a reduction in force. The department's budget is about \$21 million, including Arts & Sciences; without is about \$17 million, a good solid budget. We are ending this year with a \$200,000 surplus. We are trying to get/do things we need in this year's budget in an attempt to reduce the surplus. Security cameras were approved in this year's budget. The 13 artificial turf fields will all have cameras; next fall our sites will be done. These cameras are a deterrent; look at Reisterstown Regional Park, for example. There has been no vandalism/graffiti at this site since the cameras were installed. Mr. Chrismer added that the \$1.5 million maintenance contract for the artificial turf fields has been approved.

Mr. Barrett informed board members of the Public Hearing held on June 9 regarding the amendment to the open space manual as it relates to the method of payment to be modified. There was no one in attendance. Mr. Barrett stated that individuals would go through the development process; get to the end to record plat, letter of credit could be accepted in lieu of cash at this time. Mr. Barrett further stated that each Councilman was fine with this amendment.

**Action:**

Mr. Smith motioned to accept the draft letter of invite for the Recreation Conference, Mr. Kroll seconded and all were in favor.

Althea Page motioned to approve the request to honor Ms. Gentile with a flower planting, Mr. Weber seconded and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Kroll seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter