

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Chairman Wayne Definbaugh and Vice Chairman David Smylie; board members Mike Milani, Steven Kroll, Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks and Mike Weber. Recreation and Parks Department Staff included Bud Chrismer, deputy director; Marty Stoelting, chief, Recreation Services and Beahta Davis, area coordinator, Nature and Recreation Resources. Also in attendance from Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council: Jeffrey Budnitz, Larry Zeaflal, Elise Butler and Peter Maloney.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

Mr. Brooks motioned to approve the July board meeting minutes, Mr. Weber seconded. Vice Chairman David Smylie interjected stating that he was in attendance; however, the minutes do not reflect this. All board members were in favor of the motion, with the above-mentioned correction to be made per Mr. Smylie.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Brooks announced the Sollers Point Community Center Groundbreaking scheduled for October 18 at 11 a.m. and the "Hard Hat" Tour of Fleming Community Center scheduled October 29 at 11 a.m.

Deputy Director Bud Chrismer passed along an invitation to the Spirit of Renaissance Sculpture Dedication at Olympian Park on October 21 at 11:30 a.m. The County Executive donated the sculpture and plans to have his family in town for the dedication.

Chairman Wayne Definbaugh informed board members of the invite in their folders to the dedication on October 23 in honor of Bruce Mills.

Marty Stoelting announced that the Boys Lacrosse Clinic is scheduled for January 29 at Towson University and the Girls Lacrosse Clinic is scheduled for February 12 at the Ravens Facility. In addition, Ms. Stoelting reported that she is working with Stevenson University for a basketball clinic but mentioned that, at this time, a baseball clinic has not been planned.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Smylie reported that he has not heard anything from Woodlawn Recreation Council.

Mr. Brooks reported that he spoke with Ray Weinrick in regards to the issue brought before the board by Theresa Webb regarding Sparrows Point Recreation Council. Research was done and Mr. Brooks reported that, as the children get older, the council tends to lose players; if there are not enough players, then the teams combine into co-ed teams. Mr. Brooks reported that many of the

girls weren't playing with the boys; they were going into other sports. In addition, the boys were having problems playing with the girls. Mr. Brooks stated that Ms. Webb hasn't come back to discuss this issue, nor has anyone else. Mr. Brooks stated that, at this point, he thinks this is a moot issue. Mr. Brooks stated that the board heard Ms. Webb and he investigated this issue with the Council. In addition, Mr. Brooks spoke to the southeast area coordinator, Neil Magness, who stated that he believes this is no longer an issue.

Board members stated that the Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center is beautiful and noted that they worked hard on this one.

Mr. Weber informed board members that the Council Seminar has been postponed due to a lack of response. Lisa Liupaeter received a total of 24 responses but apparently Mr. Weber had been informed that some individuals had planned to attend but never officially responded. The new date for the Council Seminar is scheduled tentatively for March 29. A representative from the Police Department and the Law Office will attend to conduct sessions, as well as a session on Best Practices by Mr. Weber.

In regards to the request to honor Helen Anderson, Mr. Brooks stated that he hadn't been in touch and will call Joyce Sparwasser tomorrow. Mr. Definbaugh responded stating that there is a directive on how you are permitted to honor someone on County property; he will send this to board members. Discussion ensued regarding what can/cannot be dedicated.

Beahta Davis addressed the board informing members that the advisory council has been meeting monthly regarding their proposed by-laws and are here today requesting approval. Ms. Davis informed board members that the first annual meeting is scheduled October 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Hearing Room of the Jefferson Building.

Elise Butler started by thanking Steven Kroll, Ms. Davis and Ms. Stoelting for their help day to day and applauded the efforts of Director Bob Barrett, Councilman Kevin Kamenetz and the County Executive to make the transfer of property to the County. Ms. Butler informed the board that she is an attorney with much experience with non-profits and following the approach of "keeping it simple" is what she and the many other people attending these meetings felt would be the best approach. Ms. Butler believed that a simple framework would allow them to grow. Ms. Butler also recognized Mr. Chrismer and his efforts and further stated that Mr. Chrismer would be speaking at their first meeting.

Jeffrey Budnitz addressed the board and stated that this has been a long process but his outlook was to hopefully one day have Robert E. Lee Park be the "Central Park" of Baltimore County. Mr. Budnitz referred to the park as multi-dimensional with a dog park, waterfalls, kayaking, mountain biking and radio control sailing. Mr. Budnitz thanked those around him for investing in this group.

Peter Maloney started off by thanking the County. Mr. Maloney is a volunteer working on the dog park. Mr. Maloney stated that all of the "dog park folks" are very excited. Their next meeting is Tuesday, October 19. Mr. Maloney passed out documents regarding the dog park group including a newly designed logo. Mr. Maloney stated that his group is taking their lead from the dog park at Hannah More. Mr. Budnitz replied stating that the dog park is a strong component of the park but will surely include other aspects as well.

Larry Zeafal followed by stating that, given the great diversity this park offers, it will appeal to a large audience.

Mr. Kroll stated that this group is exceptional in the work they have done. Mr. Kroll stated that he is very excited to be part of this committee and of this park. Mr. Kroll stated that a phone vote/email vote had been conducted and now with a quorum he would like to motion to put the by-laws before the entire board for vote.

The by-laws had been revised per Althea Page's request. Ms. Page commented that the by-laws were very good and proceeded to request clarification to page 3, letter c. Further discussion ensued amongst board members regarding the proposed by-laws. Mr. Definbaugh mentioned finances and stated that some by-laws get into financial procedures; they become guidelines. Mr. Definbaugh requested to see this once complete. Ms. Butler agreed and stated they are in the very early stages.

Mike Milani inquired about a standard procedure for councils and stated that this should exist. Ms. Butler stated that they are working with top attorneys and would be more than happy to share this process with the board.

Mr. Brooks inquired about the Resident's Committee. Ms. Butler stated that the park has many residents surrounding it, thus they will be directly impacted. Ms. Butler stated that they have to live with the park every day and further stated that their voice is very important. Ms. Butler stated that the County encouraged a Resident Committee; they are able to diffuse situations early on, handling calls and concerns, which really helps out.

Mr. Weber stated that he has had the intention to get financial procedures and standards in place for all recreation councils. Discussion ensued regarding this matter. In addition, Mr. Brooks enlightened Mr. Milani as to the board's unanswered question regarding what authority they have. A lengthy discussion ensued amongst board members. Mr. Milani stated that he thinks the board should have authority to oversee councils.

With board member terms rapidly expiring, Mr. Kroll stated that he doesn't want to end his time served as a board member without completing the tasks he has set out to do. Mr. Kroll stated board members should make a list of what they would like to change. Mr. Kroll stated that the Pancake Breakfast at Oregon Ridge with the council president's was very rewarding. Mr. Kroll suggested asking Mr. Barrett to reinstate the Pancake Breakfast with the council president's. Mr. Chrismer stated that staff is told that the board is advisory to the department but policy to the councils. Mr. Kroll encouraged all board members to stay after their terms expire; get reappointed. Mr. Kroll stated that what the board does is important and should be expanded with a different role.

### **New Business:**

Mr. Milani stated that he has received complaints about smoking in County parks, especially Reisterstown Regional Park. Mr. Milani stated that he didn't realize our parks were not smoke free. Ms. Stoelting responded stating that staff encourages people not to smoke. Mr. Chrismer stated that we have no way to enforce this in our parks if it were a rule.

**Director's Comments:**

Mr. Chrismer informed board members that the Department is currently putting together the 2012 budget request. Staff has voiced their requests but Mr. Chrismer stated it would be a lean budget. In regards to Capital Funding, Mr. Chrismer does not expect to get a great deal from the state. Mr. Chrismer further stated that a \$500 million bond bill is on the ballot for Recreation and Parks for November 2.

Mr. Weber inquired about Gough Park. Mr. Chrismer stated that the money needed to finish the design has just been assigned. Mr. Weber inquired about the consideration of the needs for a basketball facility in the Kingsville area. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that this is not in the plans for Gough Park. Mr. Chrismer further stated that the design for Gough Park was 60% complete when this came to a halt. Community meetings had already been held for this site. At this point in time, there is no funding available for construction. Mr. Weber responded stating that he would like to be able to report back to the community and further stated that they may want to come before the board to state their needs. Mr. Chrismer stated that Gough Park is slated as a passive park with a skate park. Furthermore, Mr. Chrismer stated that the board has already met with the community regarding their wants and they have already been told there is no funding available at this time. Mr. Weber stated that the community heard about this money. Mr. Chrismer stated that this money is to finish the design. Mr. Chrismer further stated that the backstop was at this site as a marker.

**Action:**

Mr. Kroll motioned to accept the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council By-Laws, Mr. Milani seconded and by unanimous vote, all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Definbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Brooks seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter