

**Baltimore County
Board of Recreation and Parks
February 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at 6:24 p.m. at the Department of Recreation and Parks administrative offices, Towson, Maryland. In attendance were Chairman Wayne Definbaugh; Vice Chairman David Smylie; board members Althea Page, Dunbar Brooks and Mike Weber. Recreation and Parks department staff included Bud Chrismer, deputy director and Marty Stoelting, chief, Recreation Services.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Wayne Definbaugh motioned to approve the January board meeting minutes, Dunbar Brooks seconded and all were in favor.

Announcements:

Mr. Definbaugh informed board members that the Marshy Point Nature Center Popsicle Plunge is scheduled for March 5 and encouraged everyone to visit the website for additional information.

Mr. Definbaugh also reported that the Oregon Ridge Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for March 5.

Althea Page announced that she had attended the Candy Cane Hunt at Eastern Regional Park. Ms. Page stated that this was a wonderful event for 300+ children, coordinated by Norman Knoerlein.

Mike Weber attended the BCPS board meeting yesterday evening where there was much discussion about Recreation and Parks. Mr. Weber stated that board members might want to inquire into whether there were minutes taken at the meeting, and if so, review them. Mr. Weber reported that Recreation and Parks was not spoken of in a positive light, that the department appeared to be the scapegoat for various issues. Marty Stoelting responded stating that she believes the point trying to be conveyed was that Baltimore County utilizes the facilities. Mr. Weber replied stating that this is not what was conveyed. Deputy Director Bud Chrismer had copies of the BCPS Use of Facilities Manual distributed to board members to show the priority of use.

Mr. Chrismer reminded board members that the Girls' Lacrosse Clinic is scheduled for Saturday at the Ravens Facility from 10 am – 1 pm.

Old Business:

Mr. Chrismer reported that Director B. F. Williams placed a call to the Law Office regarding the document Jacob Smith is working on concerning volunteer liability. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the department has directives that cover/answer some of the questions included in Mr. Smith's document. Mr. Definbaugh requested a copy of the department's directives for all board members. Ms. Stoelting informed board members that the County provides liability insurance for the facility but once you go out of state, you are not covered. Board members had a chance to review Mr. Smith's document and all are fine with this. The document can now be forwarded to Mr. Williams.

In regards to what type of authority the board has, Mr. Weber handed out a document he had assembled for the board's review, including the history on this inquiry and research he had gathered. The board looked over this document as Mr. Weber read aloud. Based on Mr. Weber's findings, it does not appear that the board "has no apparent authority" unless there is something the board has not seen which would trump this. Mr. Weber stated the board could request the department to carry out policies they deem appropriate, in which case Mr. Brooks stated they would be a policy board advising the department. Mr. Chrismer responded stating that this is how it has worked in years past. Mr. Brooks further stated that it appears the recreation councils don't know the board has this much authority, although a whole process must emerge before getting to this. Mr. Weber replied stating that the board has the responsibility to do this but needs to know how to carry out these responsibilities if taken. Mr. Brooks stated the board might be culpable if they don't carry out procedures, as Mr. Smith has said. Mr. Brooks stated that the board must decide what type of role they wish to have; the by-laws can be amended. David Smylie stated the board should require the recreation councils to conduct a review according to the guidelines set within the board's by-laws. This will then be kept on file. In addition, Mr. Weber stated the board would need to know what the guidelines are as well as the appeal process.

Mr. Weber stated that this document was meant to get conversation started, and further stated that he is open to suggestions. Mr. Weber concluded by stating there are many different ways to go but this would be a board decision. Mr. Definbaugh stated that the board would need to inform the recreation councils as to the board's authority and what the board expects of the councils. Mr. Brooks stated that he thinks the board needs to talk this through with the County Attorney to obtain a legal opinion.

In regards to the football complaint, Mr. Smylie spoke to Steph Murphy who informed him about a possible agreement in which the group would solicit Lansdowne. The proposal will be presented to Lansdowne but has not yet happened due to the weather. Ms. Murphy informed Mr. Smylie that it appears this will be agreed upon.

By request, the response letter from the County Attorney to Tim Miller has been included in board members folders. After brief review, Mr. Definbaugh commented stating that Nathaniel Costley never came before the board for assistance with this matter. Discussion ensued amongst board members in regards to this letter and what it states. Mr. Brooks replied stating there is a difference between liabilities and doing something unlawful.

Lisa Liupaeter reported that Mr. Williams contacted the director of Harford County Department of Recreation and Parks in regards to the Kingsville community's need for facilities. Mr. Williams was told that the closest facility is Fallston and this is jam packed, even on odd hours. In addition to this, Mr. Williams was told this area does not have as many school sites to utilize, making what facilities they do have crowded.

New Business:

The March board meeting is the Annual Dinner Meeting with the County Council Membership. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 21. The board will meet with the Board of Education in April and board members have requested to take their May meeting on the road.

Director's Comments:

Mr. Chrismer began by stating that Mr. Williams was unable to attend tonight's meeting but sends his regrets.

Mr. Chrismer informed board members that the department received the potential operating budget today, which appears a bit better than status quo. Mr. Chrismer stated that he would be able to speak better to this next week.

Action:

Ms. Page motioned to hold the May board meeting at Marshy Point Nature Center, Mr. Weber seconded and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Weber moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Brooks seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Liupaeter