



Recreation Council Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2025

In attendance:

Jarod Picone, Keith Martin, Max Moog, Brian Caldwell, Katie Reinke, Jamie Bakert, Kelly Beninghove, Kevin Parry, Dana Gayleard, Sandy Reid, Eleanor Huber, Maria Hamilton, JoAnn Talbot, Jodi Walker, Daid Mullaly, Christine Carey, Marcy Murphy, Doug Menapace, Amanda Moatz, Ted Sanders, David Levinstim, Brad Ferriell, Stephanie Wilson, Sue Quinn, Ryan Fox, Karin Weber

Call to Order

Mr. Picone called the meeting to order at 8:17 p.m. and began with introductions.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Menapace seconded Mrs. Reinke's motion to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report – Dana Gayleard

Mrs. Gayleard presented the February Treasurer's Report (TR) in a reorganized manner, noting transfers in and out for the month. She pointed out a negative balance for CMRC Dance and will reach out to the program chair.

The CMRC General Fund is down to -\$5231.75 and the fireworks fund is up to date through February 28. Mr. Bakert noted that more Benevity funds should be coming in soon.

Mrs. Gayleard also noted that the first invoices from the county for fees related to adult and travel programs have arrived. Those will be paid from program accounts and she will set up a spreadsheet to track these expenses moving forward.

Mr. Menapace seconded a motion by Mrs. Reinke to approve the February TR as presented.

Council Report – Kevin Parry

Mr. Parry had no news, other than to say preparations for the spring season are underway.

President's Report – Jarod Picone

1. Volunteers and Program Registrants

Mr. Picone reminded the council all program participants must be registered and all volunteers are to complete a free background check for liability purposes and as indicated through the MOU with Baltimore County Rec and Parks (BCR&P).

2. Outreach to BCR&P vs. CMRC

Mr. Picone asked program chairs to avoid reaching out to Mr. Parry directly for issues affecting their program and to direct inquiries to the executive board first. The exception is for county staffing and facility issues after receipt of permits for their season.

3. General Liability Insurance

Mr. Picone announced that he, Mr. Moog, and Mr. Martin met with the insurance brokers to review the council's policy through Philadelphia Insurance Companies on February 25. He said the executive board was pleased with the coverage and the replies from our representatives.

The policy covers all independent contractors, regardless of numbers in CMRC. The proposed policy is blanket coverage, not broken down by sport. It also covers CMRC for a variety of issues addressed in the MOU with the county. CMRC is still awaiting guidance from the county regarding certain trainings, such as concussion protocols.

4. Vice President Vacancy

Mr. Picone reiterated that CMRC is still without a vice president. Anyone interested in the position should notify the executive board.

5. Field Maintenance and Supplies

BCR&P has asked recreation councils to communicate expectations for field maintenance this spring. Program chairs for in-house softball, in-house and travel baseball, and lacrosse should review [Article 2E](#) of the CMRC-BCR&P MOU outlining field maintenance. The county will also purchase and supply CMRC sites with supplies to maintain fields, such as paint and Turface. Once that supply is exhausted, additional supplies will be purchased via the program accounts through the council. This means programs should be judicious with their use of supplies like Turface for fields.

Furthermore, no cancelled games scheduled for another field will be made up at a CMRC field in order to preserve our supplies. Per Article 2E, there is to be no large private machinery on county fields. We have no liability for incidents stemming from this use.

When fields are closed, there are no exceptions to hold games. When deciding if fields are playable, if the field cannot be made playable with two bags or less of Turface, there should be no game.

Mr. Picone asked all programs to utilize our resources wisely and ensure we are all using them equitably.

Mrs. Carey inquired about baseball scrimmages on fields, which are allowed as long as

the field is permitted for use, the bylaw language regarding field maintenance is followed, as well as the recent guidance on supplies. Mr. Fox inquired about setting up fields for morning and afternoon baseball games. Mr. Picone said that programs should get their schedules to Mr. Parry ASAP so he can prepare his team for this maintenance, which includes lining fields between games.

Budget Presentation

1. Adult Volleyball

Mrs. Reid was present to represent the proposed adult volleyball program which would operate under CMRC and utilize TeamReach for players to sign up as first come/first serve for play on Sundays at the Sweet Air Park gymnasium. The goal is to play from April to mid-June 2025 for the first session with hopes of a year-round program as space permits.

Mr. Picone noted that other community members have reached out with interest for this program, so the number of participants may climb when the program is set up. The budget proposes 18 players paying \$60 each for participation.

Mrs. Reid noted that with a cap on the number of players per game, perhaps the program could book additional time in the gymnasium.

Mr. Bakert seconded a motion by Mrs. Reinke to approve the budget for adult volleyball as presented. Mr. Picone said Mrs. Reid would receive guidance about setting up registration via Stone Alley, permitting, etc., to get the program started.

New Business

1. New Program Request: Sign Language Program

Mrs. Walker, a third-grade teacher at Carroll Manor Elementary School (CMES), would like to start a sign language program to take place weekly, during afterschool hours at CMES. The hands-on, 60-minute program would present participants with multiple methods of learning and practicing new signs in a variety of ways.

The goal is to start a mini-session at the end of April, then build the program to multiple sessions and possibly a summer camp. Right now, she envisions the program available only for CMES students. Mr. Picone reminded her as a CMRC program, it must be open to the community's third through fifth graders.

Mrs. Beninghove seconded a motion by Mr. Bakert to approve the request to move the program forward. Mrs. Walker and her chairperson will attend the April 10 meeting for a budget presentation.

2. Donation Request: Jacksonville Elementary Parents' Night Out Silent Auction

Mr. Martin stated that CMRC was approached by the Jacksonville Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (JES PTA) for a donation for their silent auction. In 2024, the council approved one registration for a non-travel program and the fitness program also donated one fall registration for one of their sessions for a similar fundraiser by the JES PTA.

The following donations were made by programs:

- Two (2) Parking Spots at Sweet Air Park for the June 28 Independence Day Celebration
- One (1) CMRC In-House Basketball Registration - boys or girls
- One (1) CMRC Fitness Registration - fall session
- One (1) CMRC In-House Girls Lacrosse Registration
- One (1) CMRC In-House Boys Lacrosse Registration

Mr. Menapace seconded a motion by Mrs. Reinke to approve the CMRC program donations. Mr. Martin will work with the JES PTA to get them the materials they need for display of the auction items and follow-through for the winners.

3. CMRC Travel Baseball Request to Board of Directors: Operating Outside of “In-Season” Activities

Mr. Picone noted that the travel baseball program made a request to operate on grass fields in the month of March following approval of their spring permits. The one-year-old bylaws note that the beginning of the baseball season is April 1, which coincides with the official opening of diamonds by BCR&P, a long-standing practice.

Currently, CMRC travel baseball is permitted for field use from April 1 through June 15, with a request to continue use through July 31 for practices, tournament prep, and tryouts for the next season. They also utilize fields in the fall, August 1 through November 10.

Their request to acquire a permit for grass fields in March was declined via email by the executive board and Mr. Parry. The program persisted and CMRC’s executive board was not going to act unilaterally to issue an out-of-season permit without a Board of Directors discussion, vote and public comment.

Mr. Picone noted that this was due mainly to the bylaws, but also in fairness to other CMRC programs and the ripple effect it would have with additional outdoor activity requests. He reminded the council of the limited capacity in our community without a middle and high school and those additional fields / facilities.

Mr. Mulally noted that softball would also benefit from grass use in March. Mr. Menapace said the same for in-house baseball and noted in the past, when it was allowed, the program would work with lacrosse to ensure they were not interfering with each other’s programs.

Mrs. Reinke said lacrosse also requested additional time for their “in-season” activities as the bylaws were crafted and was told “no.” If her program must follow the rules, she encouraged others to do so as well.

Mr. Bakert said currently, travel teams are practicing outside of Baltimore County due to the April 1 start date, utilizing what locations they could to prepare for the season. Mrs. Carey said the Harford County Travel Baseball League is the only option for their teams to participate in league play and that the season starts in March.

Mr. Picone offered a compromise to take time from the June 15-July 31 request for field

space to permit travel baseball to use grass fields until April 1. Travel baseball could still request permits for their tryouts when they have the dates and proposed locations.

Extending the “in season” dates for travel baseball would require opening the bylaws. As such, the bylaws state in Article XI-Amendments that the president shall appoint a bylaws committee of at least three CMRC members to draft the appropriate changes. These changes are then submitted to the Board of Directors for a vote. By a majority vote, the Board of Directors may recommend the changes to the full council.

Mr. Caldwell and Mrs. Carey volunteered to serve on the committee.

Mr. Picone proposed the committee draft language along the lines of allowing softball, in-house and travel baseball to utilize grass fields beginning March 15, with appropriate permits, with a season end date of June 30. Boys and girls lacrosse has also requested language extending their season to July 15, with goals taken off the field shortly thereafter. No other programs offered amendments.

Mr. Parry said he would move the grass field permits at JES and CMES forward for travel baseball to begin March 15. He will send copies to the chairperson and the secretary.

Adjournment:

Mr. Picone adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

****The next meeting will be held April 10, 2025, at 8:15 p.m. at Sweet Air Park.***