

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2012 MEETING OF THE
BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

Recreation Commission Chairman Brian Stucky called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Roll Call was taken. Members present: Pat Barth, Candice Beaver, Charles Cassaro, Don Lastoria, Recreation Commission Council Representative Rex Mack, Nanci Schlabig and Brian Stucky. Also present: Mayor Hruby, Greg Skaljac, Lou Carouse, Recreation Director Tom Tupa and Clerk of Recreation Commission Kelly McNeill, Athletic Director Pete Kormos, Aquatics & Facilities Coordinator Bob Pliske, Assistant Aquatic Coordinator Erin Kubat, CYVO President Meg English, Blossom Hill Advisory Committee Chair Joe Kosek, Blossom Hill Advisory Members Laura Redinger and Ray Andrews. Brecksville residents also present: *See attached*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2012

A motion was made by Nanci Schlabig and seconded by Don Lastoria to dispense reading of the minutes and to approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Hruby reported the Blossom Hill Master Plan Survey will be made available until May 15, 2012.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Recreation Director Tom Tupa reported the last set of questions that have been submitted to the website have been given to Joe Kosek and his group to answer. Once completed, those answers will be posted on the website.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Brian Stucky asked for input (changes/additions) from the Recreation Commission on the layout of the proposed field house.

Pat Barth felt the two important things the facility should have are:

1. Four basketball courts versus three courts
2. Adequate space between the courts

Don Lastoria commented that he liked the proposed plan but he hopes the facility can be used for "Civic" purposes as well (i.e. emergency shelter). He feels it needs to have enough electricity, showers and toilets.

Candice Beaver like the proposed layout, but she also feels it is important to have enough space between the courts and will leave that to the experts.

Council Representative Rex Mack suggested two things:

- 1. Agrees that there has to be adequate space between the courts**
- 2. Believes a “gathering” area for parents and kids to congregate before games and after games is necessary.**

Brian Stucky pointed out in the Proposed Blossom Hill Master Plan there is a second story which would house offices and meeting rooms.

Charles Cassaro agreed with Pat Barth that four courts would be ideal and there must be enough space between the courts. Cassaro also feels “lighting” is another important item to consider. The City of Independence’s field house is a beautiful facility, but based on comments made by the Independence staff, it could use a little tinkering.

Nanci Schlabig agreed with all of the above recommendations and she also feels it is important to look into the “sound” issue, which she is sure, will be handled by the architect.

Recreation Director Tom Tupa reported the following suggestions for improvements that were provided by Ed Kostyak of Independence:

- 1. natural lighting, whether it be glass block in the walls or overhead sky lights**
- 2. spacing between courts, find ways to improve seating**
- 3. wall coverings to absorb sound**
- 4. improved ventilation, use of fans (air conditioning not necessary)**
- 5. fluorescent lighting**
- 6. synthetic turf would definitely get booked up if they had it**
- 7. more batting cages**
- 8. more storage space**
- 9. dual bay doors making it easier to get things in and out of the facility, which would also help with ventilation**
- 10.raise building so would have adequate exterior drainage**
- 11.sufficient netting**

The configuration of the facility needs to incorporate the above mentioned, as well as the following:

1. running lanes/walking
2. lobby area/gathering room/party room
3. large concession stand (multi purpose for the field house, outdoor pool & baseball/soccer fields)
4. changing rooms & outside lockers (kids usually come dressed to the games) as apposed to locker rooms
5. family changing area
6. employee office & changing rooms
7. Four basketball courts instead of three basketball courts because of tournaments.

Brian Stucky highlighted the following from the Proposed Field House Plan (pg. 90):

1. The important thing is the positioning of the locker rooms & the concession stands so they can be used by both the outdoor pool and the field house.
2. The positioning of the office facility so you don't have to "over man." One person can watch person entering and exiting the building.
3. Need to make sure there is a track inside the basketball portion of the field house so anyone can walk/run during the day while practices/games are going on.

In response to Nanci Schlabilg's question, Athletic Director Pete Kormos reported the additional programs that could be added for the turf portion of the field house are as follows:

1. Golf
2. Bocce
3. Ultimate Frisbee (youth, adult, co-ed)
4. Badminton
5. Pickle Ball
6. fitness classes
7. dance classes

Stucky stated the floor in the proposed basketball area will be "one" floor which will also be lined for volleyball & tennis.

Candice Beaver asked how the Recreation Commission's recommendations for the Proposed Blossom Hill Facility will be presented. Stucky said the Recreation Commission will put together a package with their recommendations, including the Proposed Blossom Hill Master Plan, as well as every question that has come in to the City Survey and will then present this to City Council.

Laura Redinger, member of City Council & member of the Proposed Blossom Hill Advisory Board, along with Aquatics & Facilities Coordinator Bob Pliske and Assistant Aquatic Coordinator Erin Kubat presented the following ideas and recommendations for the outdoor pool facility. In response to Mayor Hruby asking if this report was the recommendation of the work of the Master Plan Committee or was this report the next step, Redinger responded that this was Step II, based on many more discussions that were held between Pliske, Kubat, Tupa and Redinger. She stated the feedback they heard after the Proposed Master Plan was submitted was as follows:

- 1. The proposed pool was not big enough**
- 2. The committee did not put enough focus on the pool**
- 3. The pool is not a priority.**

Redinger stated that is not the case. She said maybe there weren't enough "pool" details in the Proposed Master Plan (like there were for the proposed Field House) but the pool is very much a priority. She reported the following presentation will show the "core" features that they would like to see. There are also options that can be considered depending on how big it will be, how much money will be available to spend, and what the engineers & designers propose.

Recreation Commission – Pool Discussion

I. Diligence Completed

- Solicited and received resident feedback via survey
- Sites Visited: Bay Village, Beachwood, Independence, Avon Lake, and Cuyahoga Falls and Twinsburg. Will continue to visit sites during summer season
- On going discussion with design firms Counsilman-Hunsaker (firm designed the three pools in Brecksville) and Brandsetter Carroll, Inc. (very large design firm and very well-known for pools and a good resource of information)
- Facility drawing completed in 2003 based on work of pool committee and community survey to show where things began. *See attached*

II. Current Community Center Programs – Erin Kubat

- Beluga Swim Team – Average 140 participants in past several years.
- Swim lessons year round
- Exercise classes year round (indoor pool & therapy pool)
- Open Swim year round (140-170 participants)
- Competitive Swim Clinic
- BBHHS Swim team practice and meets (November thru February)

-Historical perspective on USA program (Travel team for swimming. It is a nationally recognized organization. Between recreational swimming and USA swimming there would be very limited time for this because of having only six lanes indoors. It is a balancing act because they try to hold lanes open for public/lap swimmers, try to incorporate the Learn-To-Swim/Instructional programming and all water exercise classes. In terms of programming, the aquatics department operates roughly a 100 hours per week (summers are a little more). Of that 100 hours, roughly 20-25% of the time is used for programming which is: water exercise, instructional for all ages (LTS), competitive swimming (Belugas & Competitive Swim Clinics), and Synchronized swimming. Per Pliske, the "magic" number is 20-25% of time for programming. A long with everything else, the Aquatics department has supported many other programs i.e.: Kayaking for paraplegic veterans, Scouting programs, and Water Rescue team training to name a few. The Aquatics department tries to make it so it is as unencumbered by the community as it can.

III. Expanding Programs – Numbers of comparable cities

Population and Facility Usage of Outdoor Pool Usage Only

<u>CITY</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>ANNUAL VISITS RESIDENTS</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
*Bay Village	14,500	32,438	6,044
Avon Lake	24,350	40,000+	?
Twinsburg	17,350	26,000	3,100
Independence	6,700	25,000+	?
Beachwood	11,000	65,000	5,000

IV. Proposed Blossom Facility

- Zero depth entry, with spray features for toddler/preschool
- Tumble buckets/play structures
- Water slides (2 or 3)
- Ten lane, 25 meter x 25 ft. lap lane area
- Significant shade/green space areas for guests
- Pavilion option (gathering space for residents that has a "dual" purpose)
- Lazy River option (help to make a "destination" location)
- Diving Option - Separate well vs. part of main body
- Concession with significant shade/table area (the bigger the better. Have potential to be profitable if run correctly)
- Hours of Operation - 7 days, approximately 100 hours/week
- Programs in the morning/open to the public at noon
- Cost to run- worst case break even, expect profitability

V.	<u>50 METER POOL</u>	<u>VS.</u>	<u>25 METER POOL</u>
PROS	-Long course swim -Competitive Value -Allow outside groups to rent pool for practices and weekend meets: revenue potential -Good for large competition venue		-Services all swimmers: 5 years + -Can have many things going on at once with minimal size -Costs less to build & operate -More space for slides, buckets, sprays, etc. - Limited staff can still cover main pool and features - Better services Recreation based Swim teams
CONS	-Not functional for “low level” Competition (10 and under) or senior population -Does not service general community as well -Limits space for other fun features and green space -Close areas of pool when staff is limited -Less experienced swimmer may get tired -Costs more to build and to operate: more gallons of water to filter, chlorinate, heat, etc -Deck space needed to accommodate		-Traditional outdoor pool season is long course -Cannot rent out pool for a long course competition

Aquatics Coordinator Bob Pliske feels the city would have much more flexible/usable space if it had a 25 yard x 25 meter, 10 lane. The Community Center’s Aquatic Department is a recreational department and its primary focus is on recreational programs. Nowhere in recreational swimming is there 50 meter for children 10 and under.

VI. UPDATES TO COMMUNITY CENTER OUTDOOR POOL.

- Enclose existing outdoor pool area to increase year round capacity for all swimming programs
- Maintain existing 25 yard pool with diving board
- Replace existing outdoor pool with a feature that can accommodate instruction and limited lap swim over flow at a later phase after the water park is completed

Redinger showed pictures and went over the amenities of the Bay Village Pool. (10 yrs old)

- Operate in the “black” with a 6 day week
- Rent out the pool “after hours” because it is lit
- Concession stand can accommodate the pool as well as the baseball fields
- Rent out picnic table area for private birthday parties

Redinger showed pictures and went over the amenities of the Avon Pool (2 yrs old)

- Has lazy river & splash park. Both are very popular.**
- Splash park is outside of the pool which allows it to be used during off season**
- Avon's biggest complaint was they needed more deck space, green space and shaded areas.**

Redinger showed pictures and went over the amenities of the Beachwood Pool

- large concession area**
- lazy river that ties in with the (3) slides (very popular)**
- spray ground (very popular) (can be used during Spring & Fall)**
- large site**
- large picnic area**

Aquatics Coordinator Bob Pliske reported, after speaking with Aquatic Directors who are members of the Aquatic Round Table Group of N.E. Ohio or visiting with six to eight outdoor aquatic facilities, every director has said when you build these types of facilities, if you build them "feature rich," the people continue to come and it won't grow flat after the Fourth of July. These facilities stay popular from Memorial Day all the way through to Labor Day. Also, everyone said shade, chairs and green space are key to a successful facility.

Redinger showed pictures and went over the amenities of the Cuyahoga Falls Waterworks Facility.

- The walkways from the pavilions to the pool is a neat feature especially since theirs is a "park like" setting similar to what we would like to create.**

Council Representative Rex Mack asked if any of these facilities had restrictions on "non" residents if any. Pliske reported all of these facilities memberships were exclusive to "residents only," with the exception of Beachwood and Cuyahoga Falls. Each city allows members to bring in guests.

Brecksville resident Kathy Louttit asked someone to explain the bullet point "Expanding Existing Programming." Aquatic's Coordinator Bob Pliske said any program we currently have can be expanded upon.

- Learn-To-Swim classes for children and adults**
- Private instruction classes**
- Water sports (i.e. water polo)**
- Kayaking**
- Canoeing**
- Working with Scout troops and the Cleveland Metro Parks**

Pliske stated because there are so many disciplines of aquatics, even if the outdoor pool would be added (giving more pool space) there still would not be enough space for a year round USA Swim Program. The other eight months would be dealing with the same “indoor” facility. Pliske stated it is important to make sure there is a good balance. So first, we could expand existing LTS programs, instructional programming and have a limited amount of competitive programming.

Louttit asked if the 25% usage being dedicated to programming is intentional. Pliske stated as a Recreation Department, our department, which is community based, is structured as such:

1. The first priority is to serve the community and public
2. The second priority is to be able to offer instructional/recreational/fitness type programming
3. The third priority is to offer competitive programming when it can be fit in without interfering with the other two

Brecksville resident John McLeod asked if the current existing outdoor pool at the Community Center was enclosed as recommend, would the indoor pool be able to remain open during a thunderstorm? Pliske answered “no.” Pliske stated part of the reason the indoor pool is not kept open during a thunderstorm is because the outdoor pool & indoor pool are “shared” bodies of water where the plumbing is connected. Pliske also reported our building has had multiple lightning strikes. The pool controllers had to be replaced and air handlers have had to be replaced on top of the roof due to lightning strikes. Per Mayor Hruby there was a lightning survey done and our area was rated at a “high” level. Counsilman Hunsaker reported 50% of the pools they have built do close during thunderstorms.

BBHHS Swim Coach Mark Krusinski and Brecksville resident Bill Ritzmann, both who volunteer for the Beluga Swim Program prepared a presentation to address the following issues regarding Brecksville Aquatics:

1. What is “Aquatics” for the City of Brecksville
2. What programs does it typically include
3. What are some of the “*pain points*” of the City of Brecksville
4. What are some ways to resolve these “*pain points*”

Bill Ritzmann stated “Outdoor pools” are magnets. The intent of this document is to provide a comprehensive assessment about needs and how to best serve these needs. But more importantly to provide a document that everyone can speak to. They wanted to try to capsule as much as possible into this one document. Ritzmann stated they continued to resort back to the model on page 3 when exploring ideas. It was their “grounding” diagram. The rest of the document is the proof points of their work; but essentially they “Second” Laura Redinger’s motion to break ground immediately on the outdoor pool. The three major reasons Krusinski, Ritzmann and the others they have spoke to feel an outdoor pool is needed immediately are:

1. Crowd appeal (If it’s a true “multi-use” facility, outdoor pools are magnets for people of ages.
2. Low risk. A well designed, well managed pool is self funding. In terms of City resources they believe it is a low risk proposition.
3. Can’t address the “pain points” of the indoor pool without relocating the current outdoor pool. An outdoor pool would be a link to the development.

-This group is suggesting that once the outdoor pool is built; need to upgrade the indoor natatorium. The best thing about the Hruby Natatorium is that it is a great facility, but the one bad thing is that too many people want to use it and the community has outgrown it. They are also suggesting that the “user friendliness” of the outdoor pool is currently an issue among toddlers and younger children. Public availability is also an issue. Pliske and Kubat do an incredible job managing/juggling the programming. Also, due to the wild enthusiasm for the Beluga Swim team (Recreation program,) once an outdoor pool has been built and improvements have been made to the indoor pool facility, this group would like to explore adding a “travel” swim program or USA program. Currently, a travel program is not a possibility because there is no capacity to house the program.

Mark Krusinski said every Aquatics director that he spoke with, who has an outdoor aquatics facility, said these types of facilities is where the community gets together. All ages come together. In their opinion it is the “hub,” the heart of the city.

In terms of Competitive Swimming, Mark Krusinski feels the Beluga team could grow up to as many as 200 kids. Both Pliske and Kubat do a wonderful job trying to include everyone who would like to participate, but at a certain point it becomes dangerous when there are too many kids in the lanes. There are so many travel teams out there. The City of Brecksville currently does not have the capacity to support a travel team. There is definitely a demand, but not the facility. Currently, there are approximately 53 BBHHS students who swim on a travel team and pay approximately \$20,000 a year in pool time. There are 60 high school kids on the BBH Swim team. Krusinski said he needs to be very creative in trying to allow all the swimmers to fit into the Community Center’s schedule. As swimmers become faster, you can only have 6 swimmers in a lane and it becomes challenging in terms of the competitive side. The BBHHS pays approximately \$8000 per

year for the rental of the Community Center pool. Krusinski personally pays \$1700 to Brooklyn's Recreation Center for Saturday practices because there is no room for Saturday practices at the Community Center. In terms of elite teams in the competitive capacity, they all have dedicated facilities for their travel programs. Krusinski stated he is currently in the early stages of establishing a USA Swimming Program that will be located in a different city because the City of Brecksville does not have a facility to accommodate it. How can we provide these opportunities without taking away from other priorities? Ritzmann said by expanding Hruby Natatorium. *See page 13.

In closing, Ritzmann stated in terms of Aquatics Priorities the goal is to:

Outdoor Pool:

- Meet National Parks and Recreation standards – roughly doubling our current outdoor capacity
- Provide family gathering / social setting
- Provide additional Fitness swimming capacity
- Provide additional capacity for Beluga recreation swim team
- Provide alternative capacity; schedule annual indoor pool shutdown during summer instead of fall

Indoor Pool:

- Provide a more child friendly facility with zero entry design
- Provide additional Fitness swimming capacity
- Provide year-round Competitive USA Swimming & Diving, establishing a feeder program for High School

Brecksville resident Todd Stultz asked, in order to be competitive just for the high school swim team, how much training team would they need? Krusinski stated 20 hours of training time would be needed per week to be competitive. Councilman Greg Skaljic asked how many lanes that would require “optimally?” Krusinski stated 10 lanes would be ideal, but eight lanes would get the job done.

Brecksville resident Beth Coronel asked if there is an option to revisit the placement/location of the proposed outdoor pool facility. Brian Stucky stated that when the Proposed Blossom Hill Advisory Committee designed the area, they did it with a “Park-like” setting in mind. The Blossom Hill Advisory Committee Chair Joe Kosek reported the location for the pool was chosen because it is the highest point on the newly acquired land, so there are no wetlands and it is also the flattest area. Kosek stated there is plenty of room to have a lot of green space. As far as sun, the morning swimmers are there for fitness, not for sunning. As the sun goes up around 9am-10am in the morning, the sun is going to be high enough that you will not have shade from the field house. Recreation Director Tom Tupa stated no drawings have been done. It will be up to the architects and everything will be taken into account.

Brian Stucky restated the Blossom Hill Advisory Committee recommends to build the Field House first because it will house the locker rooms, concessions and maintenance/pool pump room which will be shared by both facilities. However, the engineers will be the ones to decide.

Mayor Hruby stated when this process goes to City Council and Council makes a decision, a planner will then be hired to finalize the details. The planning that is being done right now is just “conceptual” to show that everything can fit on the property. A professional group will end up designing the final layout, with our recommendations for green space.

Brecksville resident Derek Madej stated he feels it is very important that before the City decides what to build and where to build it, the Mayor and City Council needs to:

- 1. Insure whatever is in the Master Plan will serve the population of our residents/community**
- 2. Is it fiscally responsible? Have to insure that whatever is in the Master Plan, it can be sustained and the financial burden will not be put on future generations**

Commission Chairperson Brian Stucky restated that the Recreation Commission has asked every sector that will use the Proposed Blossom Hill Facility to report the numbers backing what they need and why. These groups have also provided numbers on what they are paying to use similar indoor facilities in other cities. The Recreation Commission is to only look at the facility and the needs of the Community. Once this has been decided, the recommendation of the Recreation Commission will be passed on to the Mayor and to City Council. The administration will look at the numbers/budget and they will have the final decision.

Brecksville resident Margaret Ritzmann asked if someone could do a “Profit & Loss” report on similar field house facilities. Nanci Schlabig said she feels it is important to show a profit/loss report. Stucky said it absolutely can be done and he asked Ritzmann to request such report on the website.

Stucky showed the pool rendering that was done by the Mayor appointed Pool Task Force from 2002. It is very similar to what the Proposed Master Plan Advisory Board has come up with.

Stucky thanked everyone (Bob Pliske, Erin Kubat, Laura Redinger, Margaret Ritzmann, Mary Ann Krusinski, Mark Krusinski and Bill Ritzmann) involved for their presentations and the resident’s for their questions.

Brecksville resident Angela Frajter asked if it would not make more sense to put the pool ahead of other items on the list because of the potential revenue it could generate? The residents have been patiently waiting since 2003 for a new outdoor pool which didn't happen due to the flood. Obviously you need to take care of the City's infrastructure before anything else, but there is a big demand for an outdoor pool.

Council Representative Rex Mack reiterated that the primary objective of this process is to assess what the demand of the community is and to then create a "wish list." The finances and where everything goes will all come after this. Once the wish list is put together and the finances are in order, then the city will have to prioritize.

Tom Tupa reported Mike Harwood was unable to attend tonight's meeting because he was out of town.

In response to Brecksville Resident Kathleen Deuch's question "What is the time line for this process and when will the proposed plan be presented to City Council," Brian Stucky stated the first 15 minutes of next month's meeting will be used to go over any questions/comments pertaining to the pool. The rest of the meeting will be dedicated to the ball diamonds, Dog Park, garden, walking trails and all outside amenities. The final discussion will be in two months.

Margaret Ritzmann reported there is a Community Meeting for the Metroparks tomorrow evening at 5:30pm at the Nature Center to talk about planning. They will be discussing the all purpose trail on the Valley Parkway (which intersects Brecksville Rd/Rt. 21.)

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Don Lastoria and seconded by Pat Barth to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted:
Kelly McNeill
Clerk of Commission**

BRECKSVILLE RESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE
OF THE APRIL 23, 2012 RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Beth & Dave Coronel	6836 Crabtree Dr.	440-838-4588	bethcoronel@sbcglobal.net
Kathleen Deuch	5906 Fawn Lane	440-838-1930	kdeu4@aol.com
Margaret & Bill Ritzmann	6935 Cranbrook	440-546-9054	ritzmma@aol.com
Mark Krusinski	9490 Glen Drive	440-717-0665	mark@emeraldresourcegroup.com
Mary Ann Krusinski	9490 Glen Drive	440-717-0665	makrusinski@gmail.com
John McLeod	6741 Wallings	440-821-3188	skye_sailing@hotmail.com
Jodie McLeod	6741 Wallings	440-821-3232	jomcleod@roadrunner.com
Andy Gray	4401 Euclid Avenue	216-432-0696	agray@moodynolan.com
Meg English	10084 Deer Run	440-526-1485	meg822@sbcglobal.net
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