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Baltimore Council of Social Agencies
Division of Recreational and Educational Agencies

Report of Camp Committee regarding
"A Proposal to the Community Fund of Baltimore from the Baltimore Young Men's Christian Association for a Permanent Central YMCA Boys Camp."

May 15, 1942

The Camp Committee of the Division of Recreational and Educational Agencies of the Baltimore Council of Social Agencies approves the proposal of the YMCA to purchase a suitable property within thirty miles of Baltimore and to construct an appropriate group of buildings and facilities to accommodate fifty white boys between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age in order to provide the opportunity for an adequate work camp experience at low cost for boys who are willing to help maintain themselves in camp.

The Committee bases this approval on the belief that there is a need for this type camp work in Baltimore and that such need cannot be met at the present time by the existing camps.

The Committee wishes to note in relation to the need for camping that during these days when a higher degree of physical and mental fitness is demanded of every individual, it is most necessary that there be greater emphasis and opportunity for camp experiences for the youth of our metropolitan areas. Although the 1938 study of the Council of Social Agencies of Camps and Campers revealed there were unused camper days at the nonprofit camps in the Baltimore area, since this time there has been a large increase in the population of Baltimore and a growing interest in camp experience.

The Camp Committee of the Division of Recreational and Educational Agencies feels that there is still a very urgent camp need for Negro children and youth. This need for camp opportunities for Negro children and youth was pointed up originally in 1939 in the study of Camps and Campers made by the Baltimore Council of Social Agencies. In approving the present proposal of the YMCA for a work camp for white boys, the Camp Committee is not unmindful of the need for camp opportunities for Negro children and feels very definitely that the need for camp opportunities for Negro children and youth should be considered carefully with a view toward immediate action.

There is a growing emphasis at the present time among the camping group throughout the country on the development of work camps. There are no other work camps as such in the Baltimore area and the Camp Committee of the Division of Recreational and Educational Agencies is very definitely of the opinion that there is a need for a work camp for the Baltimore community. There is no way at the
present time that other camps can meet the need for this type camp without interfering with their existing programs which are meeting an already established need.

The YMCA has experimented with this type camp and has statistics to show that both Camp Conoy and the work camp at Heisterstown in 1940 and Hereford in 1941 have been operated to capacity. After consultation with both lay and professional leaders of the YMCA, the Camp Committee is convinced the YMCA has done a successful and economical job so far with this type camp. The Camp Committee is of the opinion that if the YMCA is to continue to operate a work camp to serve the Baltimore community, the YMCA should have a permanent site for such camp in order to develop the full possibilities of the work camp program.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline T. Lyder, Chairman
Camp Committee

Committee:

Ward Barrick
Mrs. Roger Hartz
Mrs. Grace K. Imes
Dr. Donald Hooker
Gladys Kensing
Pauline Kinsinger
Mrs. Howard Legg
Karl Pfeiffer
Adj. William Powell
Lawrence Riggs
Ida Sharagrotsky
Helen Stevens
L. B. Twist
Caroline T. Lyder, Chairman

ACTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BALTIMORE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES, May 20, 1942

Upon motion by Mr. Bonnell, seconded by Mr. Goldman, it was voted that the report of the Division of Recreational and Educational Agencies in reference to the proposed YMCA work camp for white boys be accepted and transmitted to the Community Fund with the statement that it is the opinion of the Board of the Council of Social Agencies that there is need for a work camp for white boys such as is proposed by the YMCA, but that this need is secondary in urgency to that of the community for additional camping opportunities for Negro boys and girls, and that, in expressing this opinion, the Board has considered only needs in the field of camping and has not taken into consideration needs in other fields of social work, also, that the Board has considered this proposed program solely from the point of view of the need for it and without reference to the financial implications for the Community Fund.