

Mr. Charles A. Hook, Director
Department of Recreation and Parks

(continued)

It is understood that both of said parks are owned by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore in fee simple; that both tracts of land are now being used for public park purposes and there is no intention of declaring any part of such land to be no longer needed for a public use; and that a lease for a fixed term of years, as distinguished from a conveyance of fee simple title, will be employed in this matter in connection with any rights which may be granted to the Police Department.

It also will be remembered that in recent months the members of the Park Police Force were merged with the Baltimore City Police Department and as a result the public parks in Baltimore City are now patrolled and policed by the Police Department of Baltimore City.

The Department of Recreation and Parks derives its power from the Charter of Baltimore City (1949 edition), as set forth under Sections 94 to 101, both inclusive. Section 96, which sets forth the general powers and duties of the Board of Recreation and Parks, which is the head of the aforementioned Department, reads, in part, as follows:

- "(a) to establish, maintain, operate and control parks, zoos, squares, athletic and recreational facilities and activities for the people of Baltimore City, and to have charge and control of all such property and activities belonging to, or conducted by, the City;
* * *
- "(g) to charge and collect fees for admission, services and the use of facilities, and rentals for the use of property controlled by it; provided, that no lease of such facilities shall be made for a period of thirty days or more (or for successive periods aggregating thirty days or more) without the prior approval of the Board of Estimates. All moneys collected by the Department shall be accounted for and paid to the Treasurer at such intervals as he may prescribe.
- "(h) to adopt and enforce rules and regulations for the management, use, government and preservation of order with respect to all land, property, and activities under its control.
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