

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman Edmonds at 9:02 a.m. March 7 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Flora, excused

Committee staff present: Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor
Winnie Crapson, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Representative Merrick
Gary Brockus
Nancy Hanahan
Laurie McCammon
Nills Hansen
Mike Wizenreid
Dimitri Siscos
David Byrd
William J. Flohrs
Richard N. Biehn
Robin Krieger
Nikki Copp
Marsha Dixon Monica
Nancy Lear
Doug Glenn

Others attending: See attached list.

By unanimous consent bill will be introduced to increase tax rates on cigarettes. [HB 2560 - Cigarette and tobacco products tax rate increase]

Hearing was opened on:
HB 2408 - Blue Valley recreation system

Representative Merrick presented testimony in support of **HB 2408** (Attachment #1). He responded to questions from members of the Committee.

Gary Brockus, a former chairperson of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, testified in support of the bill (Attachment #2) and responded to questions from members of the committee.

Nancy Hanahan testified in support of the bill (Attachment #3). She referred to Attorney General Opinion No. 2001-1 requested by legal counsel for Unified School District No. 229 regarding authority for acquisition of real property by the Blue Valley Recreation System. She responded to questions from Committee members.

Laurie McCammon, a resident of the Blue Valley School District, testified in support of **HB 2408** (Attachment #4). She emphasized that the bill was intended to address the issue of oversight, not dissolution. She answered questions of members of the Committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

HB 2408 (Attachment #5). Mr. Wizenried believes it is essential that the Blue Valley Recreation Commission operate under the same accountability provisions as all other recreation commissions in Kansas. He responded to questions from Committee members.

Dmitri Siscos presented a Petition of Support signed by 819 citizens and patrons of the Blue Valley School District Community--USD 229, the original of which is on file in the office of the Blue Valley Community Coalition. Copy of page 1 is attached (Attachment #6).

David Byrd, director of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, presented testimony in opposition to **HB 2408 (Attachment #7)** including letters in opposition from Janet Fawkes, Philip R. Glasser, John Graverson, Greg L. Musil, Linda J. Nohe, Robert G. Triano, Tom Whitehead and Susan Kay Zimmerman. Mr. Byrd responded to questions from members of the Committee.

William J. Flohrs, a member of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, testified and presented reasons to oppose the bill (Attachment #8).

Richard N. Bien, Chairman of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment #9) and answered questions from the Committee.

Robin Krieger, a real estate agent, testified in opposition to **HB 2408 (Attachment #10)** and responded to questions.

Nikki Copp presented oral testimony in opposition to the bill on behalf of the Blue Valley Board of Education (Attachment #11) and responded to questions from the Committee.

Marsha Dixon Monica, a member of the Blue Valley School Board and liaison for the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, presented testimony as a parent and resident of the community in opposition to **HB 2408 (Attachment #12)**. She presented the position of the School Board that "In order to clarify the relationship between the Blue Valley Recreation Commission and the school district, Blue Valley USD #229 supports an independent status as an elected commission or the BVRC." She responded to Committee questions.

Nancy Lear, special tax counsel to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, presented testimony concerning lease agreements (Attachment #13). She answered questions of Committee members.

Doug Glenn testified concerning audits of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission performed by his firm (Attachment #14).

Written testimony in opposition to the bill was presented by Nancy Brown (Attachment #15), Bea Bacon (Attachment #16), Robert D. Regnier (Attachment #17), David R. Erickson (Attachment #18), and K. O. Strohbehn (Attachment #19).

Hearing on HB 2408 was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is March 8.

GUEST LIST

DATE March 7

Bruce Dimmitt Independent

NAME	REPRESENTING
Sue Zimmerman	Blue POC
Nancy N.C. Lear	Blue Valley Rec Comm
Randy Irey	Blue Valley Rec. Comm.
MARSHA MORICIN	Blue Valley Resident
Doug Glenn	The BCC Group, LLC
Bill Flohn	BVRC
Rick Bion	BVRC
Gary Brochus	Citizen of Blue Valley
Robin Kreeger	Citizen of Blue Valley
NIKKI COPP	Blue Valley Board of Ed.
Louis Riley	10850 W 154th St - BVCC
Ian Smale	BVCC
Niels R. Hansen	Box 23126 S-M Kc 66283 BVCC
Jan Kintell	BVRC
Jennifer Hughes	BVRC
Janet Fawcett	Blue Valley Youth Players/BVRC
Brian Paslunck	Resident
Juli Mullin	Blue Valley Resident
DAVID C. BYRD	Blue Valley Recreation
Nancy Hanahan	B.V. taxpayer
Dawn Goodwin	BVRC
Pat Lehman	KPPA
Boy Men	Legislators
Corie Kangas	Sen. Brownlee
Janie McManor	
Paul Hesse	citizen
Mike Hesse	Head of Work

RAY MERRICK
 REPRESENTATIVE 27TH DISTRICT
 6874 WEST 164TH TERR
 STILWELL, KANSAS 66085

STATE CAPITOL— 427-S
 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
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TOPEKA
 HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 MEMBER ENVIRONMENT
 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
 UTILITIES

Mister Chairman and Committee Members

Thank you very much for allowing me to appear before you today and present testimony in support of House Bill 2408.

I am the only person in this room that attended the first organizational meeting to form what is now the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. Dr. Jim Thompson was the superintendent of the school district at this time. There were about ten interested parties at this meeting. We discussed the set up of the recreation commission and what its scope would be. As I recall, the Commission was to be the facilitator of youth baseball and girl's softball. These were, at the time, under the control of a group called the Blue Valley Jr. Athletic Association. There were to be five commissioners selected to run the new Blue Valley Recreation Commission. These were to be selected after interviews by the school board.

Even though I was fairly new to the area I applied for one of these five positions. I felt I was qualified for one of these positions since I had coached and been an area director in the Johnson County 3 & 2 baseball program for thirteen years. I had also been President of the Johnson County youth football program in 1972 and had been an area director and coach in the program for fifteen years. At the time I was president of this program it was the largest youth football program in the country. I also coached soccer and basketball. I coached baseball in the Blue Valley Jr. Athletic program prior to its takeover by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. After this takeover I coached baseball for several more years when the program was under the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. Eight years ago I was one of the co-founders of the Blue Valley Sr. Baseball program. This program served about 200 high school baseball players from the three high schools. I was not selected to be one of the five commissioners, which as it turned out, was good since I would not have had the time to donate to it because of my new travel schedule.

When I was President of the youth football program, we built a sports complex, which is now part of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission facilities. When we built this facility, it was built without tax dollars. We built it with donations and user fees.

I give you this historical perspective because I have recently been vilified as anti-youth activities. This could not be further from the truth. I have also been vilified as wanting to do away with the Recreation Commission, this also could not be further from the truth. Typical of the area in

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which is, if you don't agree with those making the rules, you are painted as some evil person that doesn't understand. Attached with my testimony is a copy of the letter the Recreation Commission put out regarding people that do not agree with them. They use the patrons tax dollars to fight them if they don't agree.

People in my district have asked me to restore the right that they had taken away from them in 1994. Their rights were taken away by special legislation that was passed by the Kansas Legislature making the Blue Valley Recreation Commission special from the other recreation districts in the State. These rights were taken away without the knowledge of the people in the district until after it had happened.

What does my bill propose? I am asking that the patrons of my district be given the same rights that are given to the patrons of the other recreation districts in the state. Let them have the vote as to how their money is spent and whether they want to continue to have a recreation commission. Your patrons have this right why can't mine? If they have such a good product what are they afraid of? Let the people have their voice restored.

I will be presenting several amendments to this bill. I would have had them ready for you today, but the revisor did not have them prepared in time for this meeting due to the computer problems we had yesterday. On page two section (b) lines 19 through 24 this language will be restored. I will be asking for the recreation district to be capped at 5 mills. This should not create any burden on them since they have had a windfall of more than 1.3 million the last year with reappraisal.

I have been told that the school district will be opposed to my bill. I find this curious since they have a legislative position which states they would like to have the recreation commission be independent.

What do I hope to gain by this legislation? I would like the parties involved to sit down and have a meaningful discussion on how to resolve this situation. I would like the people most affected by the decisions being made to have a voice in the process.

I encourage your support of this bill.

Thank you. I will stand for questions.

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My name is Gary Brockus. I live in the Blue Valley School District at 16460 Switzer Road. I believe my testimony is important to the hearings, as I am a former commissioner on the Blue Valley Recreation Commission with a clear understanding of the inner workings of the past. I served on the BVRC, from 1992 through 1996, and was elected chairperson by my peers for two of those four years.

During my term, there were several significant events that occurred. I appeared before a House committee and testified at that time in support of a bill written by former state representative Nancy Brown. That bill was passed into law. It expanded the BVRC commissioners from five to seven, gave the BVRC the right to purchase real property under certain conditions, and eliminated the protest provision clause that gave the people of Blue Valley a right to vote on dissolution of the BVRC if enough signatures were obtained via protest petition. I believe this last part of Representative Brown's legislation was meant with good intention: that being to forever protect the government entity that she herself had legislatively created after a vote of her constituents. Events subsequent to the passage of this bill now lead me to strongly believe eliminating the protest provision clause was a mistake. And although I have supported and used BVRC programming extensively, and I have served as chairman of the board, I strongly support the re-instatement of the protest petition clause to the statutes. Is there any other recreation commission in the state of Kansas that enjoys protest petition immunity? Not to my knowledge. Is there anywhere else in the state where a resident is paying recreation taxes to three government entities? Not to my knowledge.

In 1995, the BVRC went to the Blue Valley voters for approval of bonds to build a community center. I was chairperson at the time, and led the effort. The independent polls said the issue would pass, but it failed miserably, 72-28 %. People did not want their taxes raised. Many people in the community began questioning why they were paying recreation taxes to three government entities, those being the county, the city they live in, and the BVRC. They began asking why the BVRC couldn't have Johnson County Park and Rec. take over a large part of the programming, and have the cities of Overland Park, and Leawood beef up programming in those areas they covered in Blue Valley as well. With the overwhelming defeat of the community center, a feasibility study into this seemed appropriate. Johnson

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County Parks and Rec. was after all, a nationally award winning group, and stated they would certainly provide recreational services to the level the community desired. Commissioners with the BVRC, and Johnson County Park and Rec., along with staff from both entities agreed to meet and discuss this possibility. This was heavily covered in the media. It's also important to note the situation that existed here. You have staff from the BVRC who are being asked to try to be objective about an issue and provide information that could result in them losing their jobs should a consolidation come about. Comments were made by them, such as "let's just get them (the county) to say they don't want us and we'll go home." That concerned me, and I pledged to be unbiased as a commissioner on the issue. My primary responsibility was to the Blue Valley taxpayers; it wasn't to insure jobs for BVRC staff.

It quickly became clear that most likely there would be tax savings involved if the BVRC was eliminated and brought under the county umbrella. Just as any business merger, the elimination of duplication of staff and overhead saves money. This made BVRC staff very nervous. They argued that services would decline, despite the fact that Johnson County Parks and Rec was a nationally award winning organization. Making those statements did not sit well with the Johnson County Park and Rec officials, although they were very professional in response. In order to determine the actual affects on services, a detailed study needed to be performed. We needed to see how and if the cities of Overland Park and Leawood would increase programming in their portions of the city that was in Blue Valley if there was no BVRC, and we needed to see how the county would program the area as well. I called for an independent, non-biased consultant as a third party to do this study. The county supported this approach. The media supported this. The BVRC did not. My peers and BVRC staff walked away from the table, as was depicted in a political cartoon in the Overland Park Sun. There was never any final joint report issued, it just ended. My fellow commissioners all voted against me in requesting this independent third party consultant at a public meeting. I told them, that they were making a mistake. That as the Blue Valley area continues to grow, and the city of Overland Park continues to annex to the south more of the Blue Valley area, that more and more people will be hit with three recreation taxes. And they will ask why. And by walking away, you just gave more fuel to their fire, as is evidence by us being here today, of someday having to be accountable for your actions. Shortly after this experience, I wrote a letter to my former state

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representative , Phyllis Gilmore, requesting she introduce a law to reinstate the protest petition clause in the statutes.

I have seen first hand how a government entity works to continue its existence, regardless of cost to taxpayers. I saw board members become too close to staff, and forget their obligation to their constituents. I saw staff cultivate that closeness. Good public policy did not occur then, nor at other times since. There is not enough time to cover it all. My family and I have enjoyed BVRC programming for many years. But the bottom line is their needs to be more accountability. What I am sure of is this; the protest petition clause must be reinstated to the statutes. Blue Valley citizens deserve this option, as much as they deserve the good programs the BVRC has offered.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely;



Gary Brockus

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NANCY HANAHAN
10001 WEST 156 STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66221
913-897-3619

March 7, 2001

Mr. Chairman , Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this morning.

In January of this year, the Kansas Attorney General issued an opinion requested by the Blue Valley Board of Education on behalf of a patron regarding the operations of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. That opinion is based on Kansas Statute 12-1935 which states "levying a tax to make provision for a capital improvement fund requires voter approval". The opinion further states "Blue Valley may NOT establish or use a fund other than its capital fund for the purchase of real property or payment for capital improvement projects listed in Kansas Statute 12-1935".

Further, "no levy shall be made unless the proposal to make such levy is submitted to and approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the taxing district voting at an election thereon".

There is a problem here. Evidence of the violations of this statute appear to be numerous.

1. The Blue Valley Recreation Commission entered into a lease-purchase agreement (more expensive than a lease) January 1, 1990 to obtain Miller's Wood. The cost was \$3,950,00. According to the law (Kansas Statute 12-1928), section (h), every recreation commission shall have the power to: enter lease agreements for real and personal property. The term of any such lease shall not exceed 10 years. The lease-purchase, a copy of which I have provided for you, extends 20 years. This was a clear violation of law.
2. In 1994, unbeknownst to the taxpayers, the legislature removed our oversight and disenfranchised us by giving special powers to the Recreation Commission, allowing them to purchase property. According to the Attorney General's opinion, they still were required to receive voter approval to purchase real property.
3. In 1995, the Blue Valley Recreation Commission did go to the voters for the 1st time with a \$6.5 million proposal that the voters defeated 2-1. We haven't heard from them since.
4. In 1998, the Blue Valley Recreation Commission purchased the Activity Center on 151 Street in Overland Park with monies from their general fund in the amount of \$700,000. Again, they did NOT follow the law.
5. The Blue Valley Recreation Commission budget has multiplied 50 times! Their first budget in 1987 was \$133,120. Today, their budget is \$6,507,769.00!! Sixty Six percent of that covers principle and interest on debt, salaries and the designated unreserved fund.
6. According to the Superintendent of Finance & Administration of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission as of May, 2000, the taxpayer debt is \$11,284,243.20. This group is out of control!!

We, the taxpayers want our control and oversight back. We further expect them to follow the law.

Who WILL enforce the law?

I respectfully request your support for H.B. 2408.

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Testimony before the
Kansas House of Representatives
Committee on Taxation
Wednesday March 7, 2001
In SUPPORT of HB 2408

Mr. Chair, and Members of the Committee: My name is Laurie McCammon and I live at 12501 W. 155th Street in Overland Park, Kansas. I am a resident of the Blue Valley School District and am here today to testify in support of HB 2408. I am here to ask you to give my community the same safeguards you have provided for every other citizen in the state regarding voter input and oversight of recreation commissions. I am speaking for the Blue Valley Community Coalition representing over 800 taxpayers desiring passage of HB 2408.

I want to be clear this is an oversight issue NOT a dissolution issue. There appears to have been an attempt to change the focus and thereby cloud the legislation by those in favor of denying Blue Valley patrons the right to decide for themselves and vote. I understand the possible motive of the opposition; having a vested interest as an employee wanting to keep his job, school board who appoints the commissioners and would inherit the debt if the BVRC were dissolved, the school district who receives facility rental benefit from the BVRC, and those private clubs such as soccer, football, wrestling and cheerleading which receive money from the Blue Valley taxpayer through the BVRC budget.

You, the legislature over the years and when you unified the recreation commission statutes in 1987 have tried to provide the same opportunities and oversight for all. We applaud your efforts.

At the 1994 legislative hearing on HB 2625 which gave special powers to the BVRC which are in question today, Laura Kelly testified the Kansas Recreation and Park Association was opposed to the bill on the grounds it negated the uniformity of the statutes governing recreation commissions. It would lead to difficulty interpreting the statutes; as it had been prior to 1987 before the statutes were recodified.¹

It appears Ms. Kelly was right.

Rep. Nancy Brown gave testimony that recreation commissions are allowed to lease but not purchase property. She stated,

“The Blue Valley Recreation Commission is currently leasing a sports facility on a 20 year annual lease arrangement, which has resulted in a long term commitment of millions of dollars. Discussions were recently held to ‘lease-purchase’ (which cannot be done under current law) additional facilities. Not only will the mill levy increase, but ‘debt’ through leasing. This approach is ultimately costing the taxpayers a significant amount of money which is not shown as debt.”²

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Later in the same testimony Rep. Brown stated, "Further the clause to abolish the commission was deleted since the recreation commission not only will provide programs, but facilities as well." ³

What she did not say was the taxpayers were sacrificed to the benefit of investors.

These issues are at the heart of the matter:

- 1.) In 1986 when the recreation commission was created by a mere 61 votes it included the statute allowing voters to petition to dissolve. I have spoken to people who lived in Blue Valley at that time and the provision to dissolve the recreation commission affected their decision. They knew they had a remedy to duplicate services, taxes, and annexation. They had oversight.
- 2.) In 1994 without allowing the voters to decide; the school board, Blue Valley Recreation Commission and Rep. Brown took it upon themselves to change the very structure of the legislation and remove the rights of the people.

Today the residents within the BVRC boundaries are inundated with marketing, catalogues, and newsletters advertising the need for fields along with the threat that your child will not be able to play if you don't support building these fields. These mailings are paid by tax dollars.

In 1994 there was dead silence as a small self-interested group disenfranchised the voter. Although it may be statutorily possible, under what authority did Representative Brown take that right? She was an elected representative perhaps acting to protect forever the entity she had created.

- 3.) The 1994 legislation protected the investor as the elimination of dissolution took away the investment risk. Why-who are these investors?

The legislation protected the school board as they receive the debt if the BVRC were to be dissolved. But isn't that fair as they are the same body that approves the purchases creating the debt. This same body that doesn't want the debt also appoints the commissioners and approves the BVRC budget.

Let me make this perfectly clear, the school board who doesn't want the debt has a vested interest in keeping the BVRC going. Yet the school board is the only mechanism the voters have for redress and the board has a conflict on the issue.

In order to have factual information I tried to research the history of the BVRC. I asked the commission for copies of their meeting minutes since 1986.

My research slowed a bit when it cost \$183.00 for those minutes and \$66.00 for copies of deed information from the county. Although outrageously costly, there in black and white is a major reason for the problems we have today. The intertwined relationships between those with special interests approving and receiving financial reward have corrupted the decision making process.

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- In 1987 the same person sat on the school board and Blue Valley recreation commission at the same time.
- In 1987 the husband of a BVRC commissioner was president of the BVJAA baseball club and received funds from the BVRC. Another private club receiving tax dollars while his wife sat on the approving body.
- In 1991 one person requested and received funds for the Blue Valley Soccer club, which is private. Those monies were to reimburse BVJAA clubs for funds the club committed to retirement of bonds for Heritage Park-a "County Park". So BVRC is giving taxpayer money to a private organization to pay off a county park. The school board has no authority over the private club or the county. How is this legal?

In spring 1991 the same person again representing a private club requested funds from the BVRC. In June of 1991 he was the CPA doing the 1990-91 annual audit. The audit was paid for out of BVRC general funds.

In 1994 He was appointed to the BVRC as a commissioner.

- In 1990 the BVRC entered into a lease-purchase agreement with the husband and wife owners of Miller Woods. (How did the enter a lease-purchase agreement with a 20 year life when the law only allowed recreation commissions to lease not purchase with a 10 year maximum?)

One of the former owners of the Miller's Woods property became a paid accountant employed by the commission.

- In January 1994 the BVRC was paying an employee to provide services as treasurer for the BVJAA (private clubs). A tax supported government entity paying for services to a private club of which the school board has no oversight authority. Is this legal?
- At the May 18th 1994 meeting the commission moved to pay \$1877.00 in legal expenses for one of the commissioners. Reportedly in regard to a conflict question.

The BVRC commissioner sat on the commission at the same time her husband was on the school board.

- At the February 1998 meeting, the BVRC waived the out of district fees for kids living out of the Blue Valley District but attending private schools.⁵ Why are tax dollars being used to pay for out of district children's recreation? Doesn't this add to the numbers and desire for fields at a cost to the Blue Valley taxpayer and the out of district parent gets a free ride.
- In 1995 the BVRC violated the public use doctrine and received a letter from the District Attorney of Johnson Co., Paul Morrison. The BVRC had been lobbying on its own behalf using tax dollars to gain approval of a bond issue through incentives to a paid consultant.

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Another example of the failure of granting special privilege to BVRC and the conflicts of interest of those involved is cited below:

This past July a group of concerned citizens met with Senator John Vratil to discuss BVRC issues and possible legislative remedies. One significant issue was the agreement proposed in the 2000-2001 budget for a joint agreement with the city of Overland Park to make improvements and add lights to the four ball fields at Community Park. The Blue Valley Recreation Commission wanted to create a designated unreserved fund balance of \$800,000.00 in their general budget. Blue Valley patrons would be assessed an unfair higher percentage of the project costs than other Overland Park residents. The community group was not in favor of the proposed agreement and questioned the legality of taxing one population of the same city more than another like population for the same project. Especially when the project would benefit the whole city.

The community group asked a related question regarding creation of a capital fund that is undesignated (1) within the general fund and (2) creating a capital fund without voter approval. Is this legal within Kansas's statutes? Senator Vratil replied it was not and there was a Kansas statute that applied. He did not have the statute number with him, would get a copy, and forward it to us. We thanked him and stated we planned to present this at the August school board meeting to question the approval of the BVRC budget.

On the morning of the school board meeting we had not received the statute and I called Mr. Vratil at his law office. He faxed the statute to me. That evening I questioned the statutory authority to create the fund in the BVRC proposed budget before the Blue Valley Board of Education. They requested an opinion from Mr. Vratil, who had changed hats, and was now school board attorney.

I expected Mr. Vratil to say the same thing he had told our citizen group earlier. We had not heard from him so expected no changes. He said something to the effect the statute did not apply but would defer to BVRC attorney, Steve Adams on the issue. There was discussion among Mr. Vratil, Mr. Adams and the school board.

The resolution of the question was stated in the August 14th, 2000 board briefs:

“The board then approved adoption of the BVRC budget as published by a vote of 7-0. The board then voted 6-1 to instruct legal counsel to obtain either an attorney general's opinion or a declaratory judgment and send notice to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission that it is not the board's intention to approve any land purchases or leases of land until receipt of a response from the attorney general or a declaratory judgement.”⁷

The school board published in their August 14, board briefs they would not approve real property purchases or leases until the Attorney General's opinion had been received.

On January 11, 2001 the Attorney General's office did issue an opinion that the BVRC could not purchase real property or use a fund other than its capital improvement fund to purchase real property and other projects listed in statute 12-1935.

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I called Overland Park to check the status of the project since the BVRC could not use the monies and was shocked to find the proposed agreement came before and was approved by the school board in November of 2000.

I spoke with Mr. Byrd; director of the BVRC who confirmed the signed agreement, approval and release of funds for the project out of the fund the attorney general had just rendered an opinion on. He said Mr. Vratil and the school board had approved the lease.

I spoke with Superintendent of the schools Dr. David Benson and he said school counsel, Mr. Vratil had determined the transaction was a lease. (Remember the board brief stated even leases would not be approved until the Attorney General Opinion was received. The opinion was received in January 2001.) I asked for a copy of Mr. Vratil's opinion and was told it was verbal and there was no written record.

Setting aside the conflicts within the previous transaction. The Attorney General's opinion created problems for the commission, as they had not gone back to the public for approval of real property since the 1995 defeat they suffered at 72%-28%.

The attorney general's opinion makes those purchases illegal. The question is do we just change the interpretation of the law to benefit the special interests or do we honor the unbiased correct opinion by the Attorney General of the State of Kansas?

- In the record of the 1994 HB 2625 hearing testimony on behalf of the BVRC states specifically that approval of voters is required with regard to the legislation for approval of property. That statement was made by a BVRC representative.
- In the March 16, 1994 BVRC meeting minutes Dave Byrd Director responded to a question by Commissioner Nohe about being able to purchase real property,

"... the voters have to approve it, and if they do, BVRC can levy annually up to a mill for capital improvements, acquisition and development. The mill is not for operating expenses." This was in reference to K.S.A. 12-1935.

The commission knew at one time they had to come to the voters. They did, were badly defeated and never came back. They just went on a spending spree using Certificates of Participation which are more costly and left us with millions of dollars of debt we have been paying for over 10 years and will pay for at least 10 more.

(I requested the amount the certificate of participations have cost the taxpayers and received a response from Dawn Drosdidier that due to spring registrations she was not able to get the information to me in the three-day time frame so I cannot give you total or current costs. I do know in May of 2000 the debt was over \$11,284,243.20.)

Please I urge you to vote in support of HB 2408 and remove the special status given the BVRC. Please restore the disenfranchised voter of the Blue Valley District.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Laurie McCammon

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ATTACHMENT 6

PETITION

NOT

SCANNED

DUE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONTENT

BLUE VALLEY RECREATION

6545 West 151st Street, Overland Park, KS 66223 Ph: 913/685-6000 Fax: 913/685-6060

Testimony Prepared for the
House Committee on Taxation
Wednesday, March 7, 2001

RE: In Opposition to HB 2408

David L. Byrd, director
Blue Valley Recreation Commission

Representative Edmonds and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Taxation Committee today on behalf of the thousands of Blue Valley School District families who utilize the recreational services provided by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission.

Since joining the organization in 1992, my challenge has been in providing recreation programs and facilities for what has been, and continues to be, one of the fastest growing school districts in Kansas. The district covers an area of 85 square miles, the current population is over 74,000 and the school district continues to grow by 800 to 1,000 students per year.

PARTICIPATION IN BVRC SPONSORED PROGRAMS: The Blue Valley community is made up of strong families with strong values. One of those values is the importance of a variety of sports and recreation programs for Blue Valley youth. The demand for recreation in south Johnson County has fueled the growth that has made the recreation commission the second largest program provider in the county. Please consider these annual participation numbers:

- In the year 2000, 5,252 individual girls and boys in grades K-12 participated in BVRC summer softball/baseball leagues. That's 1,746 girls and 3,506 boys playing on 385 teams. Another 81 teams of boys participated in our fall baseball program.
- Currently, we have 3,158 individual girls and boys in grades 3-12 participating in our basketball leagues. That's 1,118 girls and 2,040 boys, playing on 339 teams.
- **In total, the Blue Valley Recreation Commission provided games, practices, facilities, officials and supervision for 805 recreational youth sports teams in 2000.**
- In addition to the youth sports program, our staff and facilities host another 600 adult softball teams over the course of a typical year.

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Visit our web site at www.bluevalleyrec.org

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March 7, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds and Members of the House Committee on Taxation
State Capitol, Room 519S
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

Dear Representative Edmonds and Committee Members:

RE: HB 2408

Blue Valley Youth Players, a program of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, is a theatre program consisting of sixth through ninth graders residing within the Blue Valley School District. While a program of BVRC, an eleven-person volunteer parent board handles the direct day-to-day operations. I, Janet Fawkes, am the current chairperson of that board. The BVRC has demonstrated it is much more than just sports teams with their consistent support of our program since its inception in 1990. Through the BVRC we are currently producing our 12th musical, *Anything Goes*, which will be presented May 4, 5, and 6, 2001, at Blue Valley North High School.

The BVRC has made a long-term commitment to the youth of their constituency in providing balanced programs that directly address the needs and interests of a wide variety of children. While our society tends to place emphasis on participation in sports, the BVRC recognizes that not all children possess an interest in sports and chooses to sponsor programs encompassing a large number of children with other interests. Youth Players fills an important void for children whose talents and interests lie in the arts. With our current cast consisting of 58 talented singers and dancers, we are similar to an all-star team. These cast members represent a majority of schools within the Blue Valley district, sixteen secondary schools this year. Cast members become friends and attend each other's school productions as supportive audience members rather than attending another school's games for the purpose of scouting the opposition, looking for weaknesses, and plotting their strategy to conquer. This districtwide support continues through high school and beyond. It is not uncommon for college students to return home to attend our musical or that of another area school to see and support friends made through Youth Players.

Experiences provided through Blue Valley Youth Players have positively influenced young lives. In particular, peers, especially at the middle school level, can look down upon boys participating in theatre instead of sports. Through Youth Players, our participants find a support group that may be lacking in their particular school. Individuals have transferred schools due to the discovery of friends with common interests through this unique program.

This program truly fosters a love of musical theatre in participating adolescents that lasts their entire lives. An overwhelming majority of them continue their participation in, and love of theatre in high school and into adulthood as participation in the theatre requires no restrictions on age, physical prowess, or number of games won. Alumni of our program routinely major in musical theatre in college, participate in community theatre, and appear on Broadway in New York City. Youth Player alumni continue to give back to our program and the BVRC by working with our program as student directors, assisting in BVRC's Camp Center Stage, and acting as mentors.

A commitment of over 100 hours of rehearsal time is voluntarily made by cast members to bring our program to fruition. Through Youth Players, and theatre participation in general, these

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PHILIP R. GLASSER

**12323 Farley
Overland Park
Kansas 66213
(913) 681-3846**

March 7, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds and
Members of the House Committee on Taxation
State Capitol, Room 519S
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

Re: House Bill 2408.

Dear Chairman Edmonds and Members:

I am a citizen, taxpayer and voter in the Blue Valley School District. As such, I have a stake in the outcome of this proposed legislation.

While I no longer have children in the BV schools, my two young adult children benefitted from the programs of BVRC while of age to do so, and they may choose to do so as adults. The real reason that I am before you today is because I hope that my grandchildren will have the same opportunities that my children had to participate within the BVRC, as it presently exists. Here are the reasons that I support the present statutory structure for BVRC and oppose the proposed amendments:

1. Youth Recreation is Positive: Youth recreation activities are in great demand in the BV school district because the citizens of that district know of the positive effects of recreation on young people in helping them to become strong, responsible and functional adult citizens; the present structure encourages that maturation at minimal public cost for facilities and staff, while the citizen-participants pay the program operation costs;
2. The BVRC has a Positive Affect on Property Values: One reason that the BV school district has such a good reputation in the Kansas City metropolitan area is because of the excellent blend of academic and non-academic programs it offers to its citizen through it schools and its recreation commission; that bi-lateral delivery of desired services has been a leading reason why the property values of homes in the district have increased in value over the years, and are likely to continue to do so;

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March 5, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds
Members of the House Committee on Taxation
State Capitol, Room, 519S
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Representative Edmonds and Committee Members:

RE: HB 2408

I am John Graverson, a citizen in the Blue Valley School District and a Commissioner on the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. In addition, I have been a baseball umpire for the BVRC for four years. Thus, I have first-hand experience with many of the different programs that the BVRC offers to the residents of the community.

Based on that experience, I am a strong advocate of the good that our programs do for all of the users of our programs. The level of participation continues to grow every year and our ability to continue to meet those needs is rapidly declining.

HB 2408 as proposed would indeed be a major setback for the greater good of the community as it seeks to effectively handcuff the Commission from doing its routine business as it goes about meeting and forecasting the future needs of the Blue Valley community.

As a concerned and involved citizen, I urge you and your committee, after analyzing this bill, to reject it and reaffirm the support of our elected officials towards the continued platform of offering sound and responsible recreation programs for all of the residents of Kansas.

Sincerely,

John Graverson
8262 West 117th Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66210

Date 3-07-01
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Reply to Kansas Office

March 6, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds, Chairman
Members of the House Committee on Taxation
State Capitol, Room 519S
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

Re: House Bill 2408

Dear Chairman Edmonds and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my perspective on H.B. 2408, and to state my opposition to this bill. I write to you as a resident of the Blue Valley School District and a father of two daughters who use or will use the programs offered by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. I also write to you from the perspective of the President of the Overland Park City Council. Although I am speaking here only for myself and my family, as a member of a governing body that has worked side-by-side with the BVRC to give our kids productive things to do throughout the year, I want you to know that the BVRC has been an open, responsive, and effective partner.

I fear that the true intent of H.B. 2408 is to eliminate a critical and positive component of the quality of life in my home community, namely the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, all in the name of "local control" and "accountability." The legislation effectively places a straight jacket on the BVRC's ability to adjust and grow to meet the demands of its citizens. I trust that you, your committee, and the House of Representatives will tread carefully before immersing yourselves in this type of dispute, particularly when there is already adequate accountability built into the governance of the BVRC.

As a longtime member of the City Council and one experienced in the give and take of politics, I understand it is often difficult to oppose an effort couched in terms of simply allowing a local referendum on a topic. However, there appears to be a much more concerted effort going on in this case – an effort to accomplish by state legislation that which has been and can be adequately handled locally.

The Blue Valley Recreation Commission has provided outstanding service to its community, its constituents, for over a decade. The BVRC has offered primarily youth sporting and recreational activities to literally tens of thousands of children and thousands of families. Through cooperation and agreements with other governmental entities in the county, the BVRC has attempted to avoid any unnecessary duplication of other programs offered by cities or the county. Instead, it has filled voids

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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI • OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS • SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI • DENVER, COLORADO

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February 20, 2001

House Taxation Committee Members
House of Representatives
State of Kansas
State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

RE: HB 2408

Dear Committee Member:

I urge your opposition to HB 2408. This Bill will reverse and/or restrict legislation approved in 1994 pertaining to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVRC).

I believe the Bill's requirements for a five percent protest petition and an annual election to obtain voter approval for every capital improvement project are excessively restrictive and totally unnecessary.

Additionally, I believe the elimination of budget oversight by the Blue Valley Board of Education and the elimination of the BVRC's ability to purchase real property without an election are unnecessary changes. I understand the legislation approved in 1994 allowed this authority to purchase real property in an aggressive market in exchange for budget oversight by the Board of Education. This system works. Why change something that's not broken?

The BVRC has been doing the job it was created to do. As it should, it is making every attempt to respond to the demands of the rapidly growing Blue Valley community for more recreational opportunities and facilities. I fear the BVRC won't be able to meet its mandate if its hands are tied by this proposed Bill. Please let the Blue Valley Recreation Commission continue to operate as it has been successfully doing for many years.
Oppose HB 2408.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Nohe
12003 Reinhardt Drive
Leawood, KS 66209
913-345-1572

Date 3-07-01
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March 3, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds and Committee Members
State Capitol, Room
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Representative Edmonds and Committee Members:

Re: HB2408

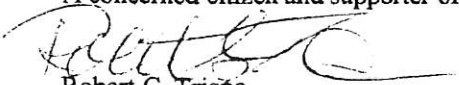
I am writing this letter to share my opinion regarding the youth of Blue Valley and the potential impact of House Bill 2408. I moved to Overland Park six years ago from New Jersey. My wife and I chose the Blue Valley area based on its excellent reputation for education and athletics. As teachers, coaches and neighbors we are responsible for developing today's youth into leaders of tomorrow. There are three basic building blocks that can aide in molding today's youth into tomorrow's leaders. They include: (1) academics, the great State of Kansas is nationally recognized among the top ten, (2) athletics, and (3) community. Blue Valley offers all three of these characteristics and as a result our children have and will continue to benefit. It is our duty to ensure we offer all children the opportunity to participate in any and all activities they may be interested in, as well as meet their future needs.

If HB2408 goes through this could prohibit the Blue Valley Recreation Commission ("BVRC") from serving the youth. As our community grows we need athletic fields and structured programs that meet the changing needs of the children. I understand there are certain factions in the State Government that would like to disband and or regulate BVRC's ability to acquire land to build much needed ball fields that are safe for our children. This would be a crime to the youth of Blue Valley. I employ you to fully understand what HB2408 is really about and what is really behind the sponsor's motivation to move this bill forward. BVRC continues to provide athletic and non-athletic activities that help develop and shape our youth in a variety of areas including, teamwork, self-confidence, continuous learning, exercises their bodies and minds. Most importantly to understand that a portion of this generation may not be affected, but certainly the next generation will feel the affects. After all aren't we responsible not only for today's actions, but actions that will effect our future generations.

Abraham Lincoln once said "The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people, whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities."

I strongly urge the elected officials to fully explore the ramifications that HB2408 would have on our youth now and in the future. If you would like to discuss this situation I can be reached at my office (816) 871-9426 or at home (913) 685-3255.

A concerned citizen and supporter of BVRC


Robert G. Triano
14700 Farley
Overland Park, KS 66221

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P
B
G

Phoenix Building Group, Inc.

March 6, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds and Members of the House Committee on
Taxation
State Capitol, Room 519S
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Representative Edmonds and Committee Members:

I am writing today in opposition to proposed House Bill 2408. As a resident, homeowner and parent of four children in Blue Valley I have seen the positive contributions made by BVRC. My children range in age from seventeen years old to nine years old and are comprised of three boys and a girl. They have been involved in several different sports programs through BVRC as well as the Special Pops/Special Olympics programs.

My oldest son is mentally delayed. Ricky has been involved in Special Olympics since he was five years old. He has participated in bowling, basketball, softball, swimming and track. Through this program he has developed physically, emotionally and mentally. He has made many friends through both Special Olympics and Special Pops. It has provided an outlet for him to grow and participate just like other kids without his disabilities.

As much as the programs have helped Ricky my other three children have benefited by helping and participating in the Special events. They have seen close up that people that may be different than they are not inferior. They have grown to understand the special skills that each of us posses and to overlook the thing individuals can't do.

I realize that not all areas have the facilities to do the things that are available through BVRC. That is one of the reasons we chose to live where we do. I believe that there should be as much flexibility and local control over budgets and authority as possible. There are different needs and growth rates in different areas of the state so a "one size fits all" mentality is the wrong way to approach this situation.

We should retain the ability to fund and grow with the needs of the growth in the Blue Valley area. Passing of House Bill 2408 will inhibit our ability to provide for the needs of our children. It is wrong and should be opposed.

Sincerely,



Tom Whitehead
President-PBG, Inc.

Setting the Standard for Excellence

7387 W. 162nd Suite 200 • Stilwell, KS 66223
Mailing: P.O. Box 23632 Stilwell, KS 66283 913-897-9581 fax: 913-897-0722
e-mail: phoenixbuilding@aol.com

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Testimony prepared for the
House Committee on Taxation
March 7, 2001

Re: HB2408

Susan Kay Zimmerman

Representative Edmonds and Committee Members:

My name is Sue Zimmerman and I am a tax payer living in the Blue Valley Recreation district. I have spent my life working with children, first as an elementary school teacher and then as a Boy Scout den mother and a Girl Scout leader and camp director. At the same time I was active in our PTA working on committees that directly impacted the kids such as Pioneer Days and Family Math nights. As we so often hear in the media, I always made sure these activities were "good for the children" and that their best interest was the center of all of these programs.

I first became acquainted with Blue Valley Recreation when my children were small. It was there when I needed help with the pottery badge for my daughter and when my son needed fun classes to help him with socialization skills as well as his fine motor skills. Blue Valley Recreation provided those services. The most difficult thing was finding where the classes were to be held. Was it in the vacant office spaces in two different strip malls or in the district office building? The first day always required an early start so that I could find the correct building and then have time to find the room in that building.

When my kids got older we moved into sports with Blue Valley Recreation. My husband served as a coach for both our son and daughter. It was a good experience for both kids and they both focused on basketball. My daughter ended up on the 6A state championship basketball team at Blue Valley North 3 years ago. I wonder if she would have ever had the opportunity to play as much as she did or have the chance to attend developmental clinics had Blue Valley Recreation not provided a league for the Blue Valley students?

For the past 5 years, my entire family has volunteered time working with the Special Olympic and Special Populations programs sponsored by Blue Valley Recreation. We have bowled, played softball and my daughter even helped with some of the special classes. I see how much fun these young adults have being able to do things that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to try.

Now, for the past 6 1/2 months I have been an art educator for Blue Valley Recreation. I work primarily with 4 to 7 year olds in a beginning art class, but also offer classed for elementary aged children and the special populations group.

When I walk into the beautiful building that we are now able to use it filled with friendly, helpful people. The gymnastics teacher is warming up, the ballet teacher is stretching so that she can help the tiny little ballerinas, the pre-school cooks next door have things all ready for their class. Then the kids arrive. They rush

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**The Honorable John Edmonds and Members of the
House Committee on Taxation
State Capitol, Room 519S
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504**

**Dear Representative Edmonds and Committee
Members:**

RE: HB 2408

I am here today to speak against HB 2408. For over 3 and 1/2 years I have been a commissioner on the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. During that time, I have become very familiar with the programs and services offered and the valuable function the BVRC serves in the community. There are 4 reasons that I would ask you to defeat this measure.

First, there is no duplication between the programs the BVRC offers and other organizations. The BVRC services the Blue Valley patron community, a community that other providers have elected to serve not serve.

Second, programs at the BVRC continue to fill quickly. This past weekend, we held spring registration and enrollments we up over 20% from enrollments in the spring of 2000.

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Third, There is adequate accountability to patrons in place currently. An elected body, the Blue Valley School Board, appoints the BVRC. They have final say in our budget and capital expenditures. Patrons that have concerns can contact their appointed commissioners or their elected school board members. There is an excellent accountability system currently in place.

Fourth, future growth in the Blue valley service area continues to be the number one challenge facing the commission. In order to deliver quality programming, the BVRC needs to continue to look for facilities. We are currently working on an agreement with the City of Overland Park to provide much needed ball fields for children to play on.

Finally, HB 2408 offers nothing that the majority the Blue Valley patrons are asking for and I would ask you to vote no on this measure.

Regards,



**William J. Flohrs
Commissioner**

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Testimony Prepared for the
House Committee on Taxation
Wednesday March 7, 2001

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2408

Richard N. Bien, Chairman
Blue Valley Recreation Commission

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Taxation Committee today on behalf of the Blue Valley School District families who utilize the recreational services provided by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. I am the current Chairman of the Commission and have served as an appointed, volunteer, commissioner since 1996. Today I would like to tell you about the BVRC and why the legislation proposed in HB2408 is bad for our community and Recreation Commissions throughout the state.

The Blue Valley Recreation Commission provides recreation services to the portion of south Johnson County, within the Blue Valley School District, through an excellent staff and through the work of hundreds of volunteers. All seven commissioners are volunteers, as are the residents who serve on the Baseball Advisory Committee, Softball Advisory Committee, Basketball Advisory Committee, Youth Players Board, sportsmanship committees, patron committees and who serve as coaches, scorekeepers, concessionaires and assist in program registration and in dozens of other capacities. Over 1400 volunteers provide in excess of 120,000 hours of volunteer services each year to support Blue Valley Recreation programs.

The mission statement of the BVRC is: "To provide quality cost-efficient recreation programs and facilities that reflect the needs of Blue Valley residents and that add value to the community." It is important for Blue Valley Recreation to respond to the community's needs. To that end, Blue Valley Recreation, actively solicits input and oversight from the community through advisory and patron committees and close cooperation with the USD 229 Board. However, the method proposed in HB 2408 is not an effective means of obtaining either input or oversight from the community. Accordingly, on behalf of the Blue Valley youth, families and the hundreds of volunteers, I am here to tell you that you should vote against HB 2408.

My opposition to HB 2408 is based, in part, on the events that led to the unanimous passage of HB 2625 by the 1994 legislature. That background is important to understanding the existing statute and the impact of the changes proposed in HB 2408.

In 1994, Representative Nancy Brown, then Chair of the House Committee on Local Government, met with representatives of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission and the Blue Valley School District to discuss the unique challenges facing the Blue Valley community. At that time and at the present the Blue Valley Service area was experiencing rapid growth and high demand for recreational services. Further, then, as now, available land for recreation facilities was being rapidly developed for both residential and commercial uses. Because demand for services was high, facilities were essential to the services demanded and acquisition of land and improving the land acquired was necessary to provide facilities and services, HB 2625 was

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developed by Representative Brown, the Commission and the Blue Valley School District. House bill 2625, currently codified at KSA 12-1935 accomplished the following:

1. The bill authorized BVRC to purchase land with approval of the USD 229 Board of Education;
2. The bill gave Blue Valley Recreation the authority to ask the voters for up to one additional mill (beyond the then existing 4 mill cap) for the purchase and construction of recreation facilities;
3. As a balance to this additional authority, (the authority to buy land and to exceed the 4 mill cap) direct oversight of the Commission's budget and approval of all land purchases were given to the elected, USD 229, Board of Education.
4. Because BVRC received the unique authority to purchase real estate, the bill removed Blue Valley Recreation from possible revocation of its operating authority (the 5% protest petition proposal before you today);

On the 25th of March 1994, HB 2625 passed the House 120-0 and subsequently was signed into law. The compelling reasons that led the legislature to pass HB 2625 in 1994 are the same today. HB 2408 seeks to reverse and or restrict the 1994 law and impair the BVRC's ability to serve the residents of the Blue Valley service area.

As I read HB 2408, it would change current Recreation Commission Statutes in the following five ways, each of which is problematic:

1. The bill removes the Blue Valley Board of Education's oversight of the Commission's budget and replaces it with government by protest vote referendum. Why is that bad? The intent of the legislators in 1994 was to balance BVRC's additional authority to purchase land with additional oversight and control by the elected Board of Education. For reasons I will make clear later this proposed control by referendum rather than by the elected Board of Education poorly serves our population.
2. As currently written, HB 2408 appears to deprive Blue Valley Recreation of its ability to purchase land without first holding an election. In the aggressive real estate market in south Johnson County, we have discovered through direct experience, that owners who have ground for sale do not even consider, let alone accept, contracts that are subject to the delays and uncertainties of an election. In order to provide necessary facilities, BVRC needs to be able to purchase real estate using the current legislative framework. Removing this necessary flexibility, as regulated by the elected school board of USD 229 makes further development of facilities impracticable.

Since the enactment of the 1994 legislation, we have purchased two parcels, both of which had other full price offers and neither of which would we have acquired given the delay of an election.

3. The proposed language in Sec. 3. KSA 2000 Supp. 12-1935 further muddies the waters about the purpose of the additional one mill for purchase and improvement of facilities. The amendment to the notice provisions requires notice publication different from the procedures for general obligation bonds and is internally inconsistent. Although a notice provision is added, the statute still refers to the procedures for issuance of general obligation bonds.

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4. This bill will cause the Commission to be subject to a protest petition challenging our authority to operate, which could lead to a costly election. Although I am confident that such an election would overwhelmingly support the recreation commission, the considerable time, effort and expense of such an election would be better utilized providing services for our community. Further, being subject to a protest election impairs the BVRC's additional authority to purchase land as allowed by Sec. 1235. First, the risk of a protest election will increase the cost of any debt service. This risk will be translated to higher interest rates and therefore either fewer improvements or greater cost to the taxpayer. Because of the risk of a protest petition, the taxpayer will get less for his or her money. Second, a protest election places USD 229 in the position of being responsible for both the real estate purchased and the debt against such real estate. In other words, if a protest election is successful, USD 229 would be left holding the bag. In short, this provision isn't a "democratic" solution to a problem. Rather, it is a pernicious attempt to deter the BVRC from fulfilling its statutory mandate, its mission statement and meeting as efficiently and effectively as possible the recreation needs of Blue Valley Residents.

In 1994, the legislature agreed that leaving the Commission subject to revocation of its authority while increasing its authority was inconsistent. For that reason, your predecessors agreed to exempt Blue Valley Recreation from this provision and passed HB 2625.

5. As written, it appears this bill would reinstate a 4-mill levy cap on recreation commissions. In 1998, the Kansas Legislature repealed the levy limits for its subdivisions, including all recreation commissions. It is our understanding that several commissions across the state have now exceeded 4 mills. According to the Kansas Department of Education, 1999-2000 School Year Mill Levy Report the following commissions' mill levies exceeded 4 mills: Great Bend, 4.99; McPherson, 4.66; Derby 4.82 and Wellington 5.00. When employee benefit funds are included, an additional eight commissions levies exceed 4 mills. This bill will have a negative impact upon those and other Kansas recreation commissions.

Input, oversight and voter control are hallmarks of a democratic society, but so is representative government. The Blue Valley School District, USD 229, through its elected Board of Education provides that control with respect to appointment of commissioners, approval of annual budgets, purchase of real estate and approval of mill levy resolutions. In fact, the school board has greater control over the activities of the BVRC than any other parent agency has over its constituent recreation commission. There is no compelling reason to change that relationship as contemplated by HB 2408. If the Committee is interested in addressing the issue of Recreation Commission governance, I request that it establish a subcommittee to study the governance of all recreation commissions in the state and reject HB 2408. Blue Valley Recreation is, of course, prepared to work with the committee or any sub committee appointed to study this important issue.

Thank you, for your attention and the opportunity to testify today.



Richard N. Bien
Chair, Blue Valley Recreation Commission

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10200 State Line Rd.
Leawood, Kansas 66206

913-312-3606
Email: info@homeskc.com

March 6, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds
Members of the House Committee on Taxation
State Capitol, Room 519S
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

Re: HB 2408

Dear Representative Edmonds and Committee Members:

My name is Robin Krieger and I live in the Blue Valley School district. My 3 boys are now older, but for several years participated in the programs offered by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. I still have one child who is a senior at Blue Valley North.

I am also a Real Estate agent and have listed and sold homes in the Blue Valley area, as well as much of the metro area for almost 25 years. I can tell you from first hand experience that the main reason people locate to Blue Valley is because of their children. They want great schools and great programs for their kids. Even the relocation companies promote these programs in their relocation packets given to prospective employees.

The BVRC was created by the people of Blue Valley to address the needs of their children. They have done an extraordinary job attempting to keep up with the exploding population, but as communities grow, it gets harder and harder to find facilities and land. The general population has no idea how jammed the gymnasiums and sports fields are with kids—unless they have attempted to sign their kids up for swimming or gymnastics lessons and are put on a waiting list. The public schools have facilities and land for activities, but they are full, and kids are being turned away from programs. Having an organization with the sole purpose of providing facilities and programs for Blue Valley Youth **at the request of their patrons** is not only logical, but an urgent need.

Now, more than ever, is a time to keep kids involved in healthy activities. When you have teenagers that want to play recreational basketball, or take a tae-kwon-do class, it is that many fewer kids you have to worry about with too much time on their hands. I can assure you, I had 3 teenage boys at once, and sports and ceramics were my saving grace. If the programs had not been readily available, my boys would have had the opportunity to get into more trouble. Many of my friends with kids feel the same way.

Land in Blue Valley is scarce, and land for recreational activities and parks is diminishing. The BVRC needs the ability to purchase ground in order to secure parcels at a competitive price so we are not charging our people a premium. Also, any seller of ground will refuse to wait while we send our request to the voters....the idea is non-functional as values change over time.

There will always be a very vocal minority of people who don't want to spend tax money for anything. There will always be one or two activists on a cause with extreme emotions, both pro and con. Please look beyond this extremely small minority of people to the thousands and thousands of children and young adults who have benefited over the years from the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, and help them continue to serve the majority of their population. Our great programs benefit ALL people in Blue Valley as the property values increase, because it is such a great place to live and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Robin Krieger

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visit us at <http://www.homeskc.com>
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Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

March 7, 2001

Testimony Concerning House Bill 2408

Presentation by:

Mrs. Nikki Copp, President Blue Valley Board of Education
Blue Valley Unified School District #229
PO Box 23901
Overland Park, KS 66283-0901

The Honorable John Edmonds and Members of the Committee on Taxation.

I appreciate the opportunity to address you in opposition to elements contained in House Bill 2408 regarding the Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVRC).

The Blue Valley School District has adopted and maintained for at least three years the following legislative position. "In order to clarify the relationship between the Blue Valley Recreation Commission and the school district, Blue Valley USD #229 supports an independent status as an elected commission for the BVRC." This position would allow the BVRC to be directly responsible to the electorate as a separate municipal government charged with responsibility to provide recreational opportunities for the Blue Valley community. This is a supportive position of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission and the important work that the commission does for the Blue Valley community. In no way and at no time has the Board of Education adopted this position to be construed as critical of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, its commissioners or its endeavors to enhance recreational opportunities for the Blue Valley community.

Regarding House Bill 2408, several issues if adopted, would severely impede the Blue Valley Recreation Commission's ability to fulfill its stated mission.

- This bill would remove the authority of the Blue Valley Board of Education to review and approve the BVRC annual budget. The school district would continue to select the commissioners. We believe that the selection of commissioners and the review of the budget are synonymous with appropriate oversight.
- This bill would provide BVRC's annual operating budget to be subject to a protest petition each year. We believe that this would tie the hands of the BVRC in its ability to have an operating budget that is responsive to the recreational needs of the community. This is a statutory position that is imposed on no other municipal form of government, no other operating budget of any other form of municipal government. As a practical matter, the requirement on the Board of Education to approve a mill levy for certification to the County without an established budget due to a possible protest petition is inappropriate and unworkable.

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- The bill would allow dissolution of the BVRC by a majority vote of the electors called upon by petition of re-electors. This position would put in great jeopardy the financial vehicle of Certificates of Participation (COP) that are currently outstanding from the BVRC. Individuals who invested in those COP's did so in good faith and with the belief that the recreation commission could not be dissolved by a vote of the electorate. If this bill passes, it could be a breach of faith for those investors and the BVRC could probably never again be able to market COP's as long there is an ability to dissolve the BVRC.
- The bill provision that allows for a petition regarding the use of a one-mill Capital Outlay levy would be burdensome and cumbersome. BVRC would have to go to a vote of the people to get approval for such regular and routine things as repairing leaking roofs or resurfacing parking lots. Any expenditure from the Capital Outlay Fund would have to be approved by a vote of the people, which of course would make it extremely difficult for the BVRC to operate. It would be like requiring a vote of the people for the school district to approve any expenditure that we wished to make from our Capital Outlay fund. If the voters should approve a Capital Outlay fund, then the BVRC should be able to manage that fund.

For all of these reasons, the Blue Valley Board of Education has authorized me to speak in opposition to the passage of House Bill 2408.

I want to thank the committee for this opportunity and would answer any questions to the best of my ability.

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Testimony Concerning House Bill 2408

Speaker:

Marsha Dixon Monica

Residing at: 12913 Canterbury

Leawood, KS 66209

The Honorable John Edmonds and Members of the Committee on Taxation.

My name is Marsha Dixon Monica, I am a member of the Blue Valley School Board and current Board liaison for the Blue Valley Recreation Commission which we all call the BVRC. However, more importantly I am here today to talk to you as a parent and resident of the Blue Valley community.

You should know, that the BVRC has been providing recreational opportunities to our community since 1986. It was formed because no other city, county, or local entity was willing to provide services to those of us living in the Blue Valley School District. As the Blue Valley School District has grown, so has the BVRC. Today thousands of Blue Valley kids are involved year round in activities, sports, and performing arts provided by the BVRC. They are joined by hundreds of adults and senior citizens, who also participate in classes ranging from art, self-improvement, financial planning; to dance, water aerobics, computers and yoga. What could be better than having our community—kids 8 to 80-- actively involved in these wonderful recreational programs?

I am confused about the intent of this bill. For the life of me I can't figure out why we are trying "to fix something that isn't broken". There is currently a system in place that provides these much needed services and historically been very successful.

So often today the news reports are filled with stories of young kids who bring guns to school, who engage in random, senseless, acts of violence, and even commit suicide. Experts tell us again and again that the reason our youth are troubled is because they don't have positive outlets, good role models, or activities that help them feel connected in a meaningful way in our society.

For some reason there are a few people that don't see the value and importance of these types of activities for our community. The tax dollars spent for recreation are miniscule compared to the dollars spent on jails, prisons, and other care facilities for young people who didn't have the opportunity to learn such life skills as: perseverance, teamwork, sportsmanship, cooperation and discipline.

And so it troubles me, that in a time when we so desperately need, to provide our children with safe and wholesome recreational opportunities, the legislature is considering a bill that would effectively guarantee the demise of the BVRC. It seems to me that the proposed bill only throws roadblocks in the way of BVRC's ability to provide quality recreation to our community. How is this good for our citizens who depend on the BVRC for these programs? This bill needs to be defeated. Thank you.

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TO: Kansas House of Representatives Taxation Committee

FROM: Nancy N.C. Lear
Gilmore & Bell, P.C.

DATE: March 8, 2001

Gilmore & Bell, P.C. served as special tax counsel to Blue Valley Recreation Commission, a recreation commission existing pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1922 to 12-1933, in connection with the execution and delivery by the Commission of the following leases:

1. Lease Purchase Agreement dated as of November 1, 1991, as amended by an Amendment to Lease Purchase Agreement dated as of June 15, 1992, and the First Supplemental Lease Purchase Agreement dated as of January 1, 1993, between Bank of America National Association (as successor to the original lessor), as lessor, and Blue Valley Recreation Commission, as lessee, pursuant to which the Commission leases the property known as the Miller's Woods Sports Complex from the lessor.

2. Lease Purchase Agreement dated as of September 1, 1995, between Bank of America National Association (as successor to the original lessor), as lessor, and Blue Valley Recreation Commission, as lessee, pursuant to which the Commission leases the property formerly owned by the YMCA from the lessor.

Each of the above-described Leases was executed and delivered in compliance with all applicable Kansas statutes, and the obligations of the Commission thereunder complied with all applicable Kansas statutes in effect at the time of such execution and delivery. Each of the Leases, including the amendments and supplements thereto, was approved in writing by Unified School District No. 229, Johnson/Miami County, State of Kansas, as required by Kansas law.

Three series of Certificates of Participation evidencing interests in the purchasers thereof in the rental payments made by the Commission under the above-described Leases have been executed and delivered by the lessor (Series 1991, Series 1993 and Series 1995). The transactions in which such Certificates of Participation were executed and delivered were standard public finance transactions.

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Testimony to House Taxation Committee
March 7, 2001

To the Chairperson and members of the committee:

My name is Doug Glenn; I am a certified public accountant, licensed in the state of Kansas. I am a member of the BCC Group, L.L.C., a public accounting firm with offices in Topeka and Leavenworth. Our firm has performed independent financial audits of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission for the fiscal years ended June 30, 1998, 1999 and 2000. Other auditing firms performed audits prior to those fiscal years. In addition, The BCC Group, L.L.C and its predecessor, Bushman and Associates, CPA's have performed independent financial audits of USD 229, Blue Valley School District for over 20 years. We performed our audits of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, auditing standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Kansas Municipal Audit Guide* of the State of Kansas.

My purpose here today is to briefly describe our financial audits and conclusions reached in those audits. In all three of our audits, we rendered an unqualified or "clean" opinion, that states that the Commission's financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, because our audits were performed under Government Auditing Standards and in accordance with the Municipal Audit Guide of the State of Kansas, we also had a duty to address the Commission's compliance with any Federal or state of Kansas laws or

regulations that may apply. We reviewed applicable Kansas statutes for House Taxation

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Testimony to House Taxation Committee

March 7, 2001

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compliance by the Commission. Some specific statutes reviewed by us were KSA 12-1927 which limited the general fund to 4 mills (until being eliminated by KSA 79-5040 in 1999), and the responsibility of USD 229 to adopt and approve the annual budget of the Commission; KSA 12-1926 which prescribes the responsibility of USD 229 Board of Education to appoint all members of the Recreation Commission board; and KSA 12-1928 which requires the oversight and approval of the USD 229 Board of Education to approve all purchases of real property and improvements. In addition, our audit procedures reviewed the Commission's compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of the state of Kansas. We found no instances of non-compliance with statutory provisions in any of our three audits performed. In addition, as noted in our report on compliance and internal controls for each of the three fiscal years, we noted no material weaknesses in internal control.

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TESTIMONY FOR THE HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

HB 2408: AN ACT concerning recreational districts; relating to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission established by the Blue Valley unified school district NO. 229.

Representative Edmonds and members of the Taxation Committee, I apologize for not testifying in person on an issue that is very important to me and to people in the Blue Valley community, but today I am in Minnesota at the State Capitol working with legislators in my role as executive director of the Women's Legislative Network of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

As background information, I have worked with and for the people in the Blue Valley area since I moved to Kansas in 1980, first as a community advocate, and then as the state representative in the 27th District (1984-1994). My advocacy began when I discovered numerous inequities in the treatment of the people residing in townships versus cities. The lack of sports and recreation programs in the community were an example. Though we paid the same county taxes for parks and recreation services, there were no programs or facilities in our area.

This void led a group of parents to join together to lobby for programs in the community; they even offered to pay additional fees. The county still would not provide the programs. Thus, a citizen's initiative began which ultimately resulted in efforts by hundreds of people to provide services for their children. The opportunity became available to act upon this initiative when I was elected to the legislature in 1984. I sponsored a bill to allow the creation of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission *through the vote of the people*. This bill passed, the people voted, and the recreation commission was formed.

Obviously it was not as simple as stated above. While some concerns were expressed by people in the community, within the school district, and even within the legislature, it was also recognized by the Legislature that Johnson County is rather unique in that it has 21 cities with overlapping school boundaries, resulting in rather complex taxing units. One solution to the problem was to amend the statutes to allow people to vote to tax themselves. And they did!

Was the bill perfect? Of course not! It was a new entity to the community and to the school board. However, to the credit of the recreation commissioners, the school board and the people in the district, they responded whenever concerns were expressed. And, when amendments were necessary, discussions were held with all parties involved and together solutions were made to those concerns. In fact the most recent amendments in 1994 were made in collaboration with the school district, the recreation commission, and members of the community. While additional authority was granted to the commission, additional oversight and accountability measures were also put in place to assure that elected officials, the school board, were provided with the ultimate decision-making authority.

When HB 2408 and SB 211 were brought to my attention I went into my numerous files and relived the history of the recreation commission, reading testimony, newspaper clippings, my notes, etc. I wanted to be sure that I understood why amendments were made to the statutes and the intent of those amendments. I also wanted to understand the intent of the two new bills and the ultimate impact upon the recreation commission and the community.

After talking with several opponents and proponents (including Rep. Merrick), the conclusion to which I came is that the effect of the legislation (whether or not the intent) would result in the weakening of the recreation commission to the point that the commission would become relatively powerless. It also appears that the amendment removes the oversight of the commission's budget by the Blue Valley Board of Education.

Nancy Brown

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Feb. 28, 2001

When the Blue Valley Recreation Commission was created, their 1987 budget was \$133,120.00. Since 1987 to the present the Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVRC) budget has risen to \$6,507,769, with an outstanding debt of \$11,284,243, in the year 2000.

We, the voters in the Blue Valley School District, have been disenfranchised and through legislation have lost the ability to vote on the taxes levied on us by the BVRC which is under the auspices of the Blue Valley School District.

We are asking you to correct this legislation which gives us no voice in how - or how much of - our money will be spent. The citizens in the Blue Valley School District are the ONLY GROUP IN THE STATE which has had their right to petition for a vote or dissolution of their recreation commission removed by legislation. If our vote is restored it does not automatically mean the BVRC will be dissolved, but we will have the same voting rights of every other Kansas citizen.

The Kansas Senator for this district is reputed to be against this bill, but he lives outside the Recreation and School District so is not taxed as are those who live in the District. Therefore, his opposition is that of a paid employee, with a conflict of interest motive in favor of his employer and not in favor of his constituents.

We are willing to continue paying down the debt if this HB-2408 is passed. We just want the right to vote on who gets our money and how it is spent.

The Administrative costs for the BVRC are higher than the Administrative costs for the City of Overland Park which is much bigger; and they are higher than the Administrative costs for Johnson County, which is much, much bigger. Something is very wrong with this picture!!!

Bea Bacon

Bea Bacon

11901 West 148 St

Olathe, KS 66062

Tel: 913 897 3352

Fax: 913 897 3802

House Taxation
Date 3-07-01
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BANK OF
BLUE VALLEY

MEMBER FDIC

Rising Above Your Expectations

March 6, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds
Members of the House Committee on Taxation
State Capitol Room 51
519 S
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

RE: House Bill 2408

To Representative Edmonds and Committee Members:

I am writing today in opposition to the above referenced House Bill regarding the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. I am writing in my capacity as a businessman within the Blue Valley School District and a patron of the Blue Valley School District. From my position as a patron of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, all three of my children, like most young families in Johnson County, have benefited from programming offered by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. Over the years, the Blue Valley Recreation Commission has offered consistent quality recreational programs for the youth of Blue Valley. Most people familiar with the situation know that the Blue Valley Recreation Commission was created in 1985 by a group of informed citizens out of frustration with Johnson County and the cities of Leawood and Overland Park. At that point in time, virtually no recreational program was made available to the youth of Blue Valley. One of the principal arguments for the continuation of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission and their programming is the fact that it has done an excellent job in providing recreational opportunities for the youth. I am hard-pressed to support a bill that would cut the heart out of an organization that has done such a good job in meeting their mission.

In my position on the Blue Valley School Board, I have learned first hand the benefits of a solid recreational program in connection with a good educational program. I am convinced of the positive educational benefits of a good, strong recreational program. Team-oriented recreational programs give our youth structured programming outside of the school day and also provide the opportunity to learn all of the things that are inherent in team sports, including winning, losing, teamwork, exhilaration, and disappointment. All of these priceless social lessons, in conjunction with the very positive benefits of an

House Taxation

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Shawnee: Price Chopper
56th Street & 7 Highway
Shawnee, KS
913-338-1000

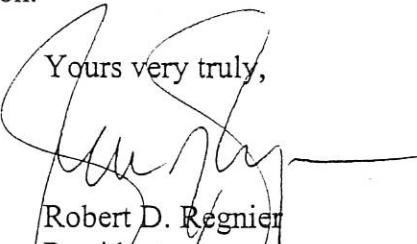


The Honorable John Edmonds
Members of the House Committee on Taxation
March 6, 2001
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active physical program, are the elements that make the Blue Valley Recreation Commission a very valuable part of the Blue Valley living experience. With the growth of the commission, it is possible that the structure of the commission should be changed from the original structure that was conceived many years ago. However, the current House Bill 2408 does not accomplish any of this in a positive fashion. It only allows for the impediment of the operation of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission and the diminuation of its services.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice this opinion.

Yours very truly,



Robert D. Regnier
President

RDR:vjf

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David R. Erickson
(913) 663-8937
derickson@shb.com

March 6, 2001

RE: Blue Valley Recreation Commission

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am sending this letter to set forth my position and the position of my wife regarding the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. I will be out of town on business on Wednesday, March 7, 2001. Otherwise, we would appear in person at your public hearing on this issue. My wife will be at work at the day of the hearing.

We moved to the Blue Valley District and first became familiar with the Blue Valley Recreation Commission in 1989. The fact that my wife and I have personal and business commitments, which make it impossible to appear in person, probably is fairly typically of the many interested Blue Valley Recreation Commission patrons who take advantage of services and programs offered by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. Although many residents use our program, they also take Blue Valley Recreation Commission and its programs for granted and do not have time in their busy schedules to appear at such political witch hunts. Although I do not know the exact numbers, I understand that there are probably in excess of 10,000 registered users of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission services and programs. My wife and I have two children. We have a daughter who is a senior in high school and a daughter who is in 8th grade. At the present time, neither one of them is actively participating in any program administered by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. However, we strongly support the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, its programs and services, and what it stands for generally in the community.

The Blue Valley Recreation Commission provides services and programs that would not otherwise be available through any other public or private group or entity. The Johnson County Parks and Recreation does not have the capability to provide the program or services currently provided by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. The same is true for the City of Overland Park

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costs. However, based on my personal past service on a swim team, the administrative overhead costs was minimal in comparisons to the amount of time, effort, and support that the Blue Valley Recreation Commission professional staff and office personnel provided to the swim team. Although that swim team no longer exists because the Blue Valley Recreation Commission did not have the money to build or own a pool at the time, which was required for continued participation in the league, most of the participants in that program went on to swim for the local high schools. Although we explored trying to operate the team in such a way to avoid involvement of Blue Valley Recreation Commission and the overhead expenses, we determined that it was impossible to do so.

If serious consideration is given to the current proposal to revamp and restructure the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, I believe that research and analysis into the facts would lead to the conclusion that the Blue Valley Recreation Commission is well run and should not be changed. The programs cannot be run better or at a lower cost by any other entity the organization is responsive and attempts to meet the demands and requests of the public. Generally speaking, the services are greatly appreciated by the users and even those who do not use the services and programs benefit by them. I strongly urge the Kansas Legislature to reject the current proposals to revamp and change the structure of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. To the extent that any further serious consideration is given for these proposals, I would suggest that the Kansas Legislature make a better effort to actually discover the opinions held by the majority of the population in Blue Valley rather than listen to a small but vocal minority of people who are not reflective of the population as a whole.

I would be happy to discuss these matters further with you in any private or public forum that you choose.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

David R. Erickson

DRE/kgg

K.O. (Carol) Strohbehn
4005 W 123rd St.
Leawood, KS 66209
(913)491-4981
kostroh@kc.rr.com

March 6, 2001

The Honorable John Edmonds and Members of the
House Committee on Taxation
State Capitol, Room 519S
Topeka, KS.
66612-1504

RE: HB 2408

Dear Representative Edmonds and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to present my opposition to House Bill 2408 regarding the Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVRC). I am a member of the board of education for the Blue Valley School District, but this letter reflects only my individual opinions. I am speaking *only* for myself. Listed below is a point of historical perspective followed by my strong objections to the proposed bill:

1. Until the BVRC was formed in 1986, no city or county recreation commission demonstrated any interest in expanding services to meet the needs of patrons living south of I-435. Previous discussions exploring a possible merger of the BVRC with city or county recreation commissions were not successful. Neither the city nor county recreation commissions were interested in providing the scope of services available through the BVRC, and the city recreation commissions provided services only to people living within their city limits. The BVRC provides recreation opportunities for citizens living in Leawood, Olathe, Overland Park, and unincorporated Johnson County (Aubrey, Stilwell, Morse, Bucyrus and Kenneth) all of which make up the Blue Valley School District.
2. HB 2408 removes the authority of the Board of Education to review and approve the budget, yet it requires the Board of Education to certify the BVRC budget. How can a publicly elected body be asked to certify that which they have no authority to approve?
3. HB 2408 requires that the BVRC go to the voters for approval for such things as repairs and maintenance. How can any organization operate if it is required to hold an election for these types of expenditures? Who would pay these election expenses?
4. HB 2408 authorizes the dissolution of the BVRC through a majority vote. The BVRC has financial obligations that must be met. If dissolved, the BVRC would not be able to pay back investors. This constitutes a breach of faith to the investors and greatly limits the ability of the BVRC to find investors in the future.

In my opinion, HB 2408 does not have the best interests of parents, patrons and children at heart and is a thinly veiled attempt to destroy the Blue Valley Recreation Commission.

Respectfully,



KO Strohbehn

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