

## **Zip lines, volleyball courts and other attractions pitched for Inner Harbor**

by Rachel Bernstein, *Daily Record*, May 9, 2011

The Baltimore Development Corp. released Monday its list of nine proposals for new Inner Harbor attractions. Proposals range from volleyball courts to observation towers to zip lines and kayak tours.

Nearly 15 million visitors come to the Inner Harbor annually, and city officials want to see that number grow, so the BDC has been on the hunt for ideas for new attractions, especially ones geared to a variety of ages that are entertaining, educational and cultural and incorporate the outdoors.

Many — but not all — of the nine companies submitting proposals are from Maryland. Great City Attractions Global Ltd., which pitched a giant observation wheel, hails from Birmingham, England. And a 130-foot metallic tower with a 12-seat flying shuttle proposal came from Aerophile Orlando LLC, owned by Jerome Giacomoni and Lee Raskin of Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Among the local operators expressing interest are Baltimore Beach LLC, which proposed 14 beach volleyball courts; Charm City Golf, pitching a golf course; and Knights Carousel, based in Columbia, proposing a carousel and 27-seat trackless children's train.

Jim Seay's Premier Rides will feature a bungee trampoline, wall climbing, rappelling, slides, Segway tours, skydiving, an observation wheel, a carousel and other children's attractions. A joint venture between Ride Entertainment Group and Entertainment Finance Group would have a sky trail rope course, while another joint venture between Skyline Baltimore and Glenwood Tramway LLC would feature an aerial tram ride and zip line. Terrapin Adventures is proposing rock climbing, zip lines, swings and kayak tours.

The BDC has convened an advisory panel of prominent business and community leaders to assist in the review of the proposals. Further reviews will be done by the city's inter-agency Inner Harbor Task Force and Inner Harbor stakeholders, according to the BDC.

The advisory panel is comprised of Gregory Bayor, director of Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks; Maria Beckett, president of Maricom Systems Inc.; M.J. "Jay" Brodie, president of the BDC; Javier Bustamante, director of the office of media and technology for the Social Security Administration; Councilman William H. Cole IV; Donald C. Fry, CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee; William Gilmore, director of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts; Irvina Mallory, senior vice president of The Harbor Bank of Maryland; Carla Nelson, director of Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development; Tom Noonan, CEO of Visit Baltimore; Bryn Parchman, CEO of Port Discovery; Van Reiner, CEO of the Maryland Science Center; Christopher Rowsom, executive director of Historic Ships in Baltimore; and Laurie Schwartz, executive director of Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore.