

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Rec&Ed Offices

1530 Eisenhower Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Tim Berla, Sheila Calhoun, Tom George, Paula Greeno, Joanne Kimata, Sequoyah King, Shannon Kos, Betty Wier, Colleen Greene

Excused: Jon Strite, Nate Nemon, Dave Korman

Ex-Officio Members Present: Sara Aeschbach, Larry Dishman, Glenn Nelson, Jeff Straw, Christopher Taylor

Call to Order: Chairperson Paula Greeno called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

Approval of Minutes: Shannon Kos moved to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting with revision. Sheila Calhoun seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as revised.

Public Commentary: Ed Sketch, 634 Brooks, Ann Arbor, MI resident spoke representing the Mack Pool users group, reacting to the decision of PAC to close Mack Pool. It has been determined that closing Mack pool will save the city \$59,000, and was recommended by PAC that the pool not reopen after this year's summer closing. The Mack pool users group is suggesting that the city and schools work together with the user group on a plan for Mack pool to remain open.

Old Business

A. Adding new playing fields – no report

B. City/School Agreement on the Cultural Arts Building (CAB) - Sara Aeschbach reported that a lease agreement was reached with the city allowing for the lease the Eberbach Cultural Arts Building for \$1.00/year. The schools will be responsible for all the maintenance on the building, and \$9,900 annually paid into a city fund established for capital facility expenses earmarked for the Cultural Arts Building. The five-year agreement was approved by City Council on Monday, May 4. The total expense paid by Rec&Ed will need to be covered by user-fees, because the schools have no tax revenue for public recreation. It is projected that the cost to Rec&Ed will be \$40,000 with \$10,000 of that being placed in a capital gains account for the city. There was discussion about whether fee increases would be based on a percentage increase spread across all cultural arts classes or only on the CAB classes. Glenn Nelson suggested that Rec&Ed consider keeping the fee increase exclusive to CAB classes only, to better enable a determination of the CAB program viability.

C. Resolution on Public Input – Paula Greeno put together a draft of a resolution on public input regarding recreation philosophy and policies. Shannon Kos suggested that the first step be to identify dates of when current working resolutions expire and then determine what and when dates need to be set for discussion. Glenn Nelson felt it important that the general public be able to speak their opinion in a timely manner so that the governing bodies can best utilize public commentary appropriately. Draft revisions will be sent before the June 3 meeting for review.

New Business

A. Ann Arbor Senior Center – Sara Aeschbach reported that at the last PAC meeting there was commentary regarding the Ann Arbor Senior Center. Pam Simmons, Facility Supervisor, set up a meeting with Sara to determine if the Center could partner with Rec&Ed in order to offer classes to both to the seniors and to the general population, in an effort to generate revenue to stabilize the budget of the senior center. The City staff recommendation is to end City subsidy of the senior center on July 1, 2010. This would be a saving to the city of \$140,000.

B. Mack Pool – Tim Berla would like to see what the underlying agreement is between the city and the schools for Mack pool. Glenn Nelson would like a budget report of all expenses/revenue for the

pool. Sara Aeschbach pointed out that original agreement calls for the City to cover all operating expenses, however the school district began covering 32% of the total operating expenses several years ago, as calculated by the percentage of the time the schools use the pool. Jeff Straw will try to bring a briefing of the finances of Mack pool to the June RAC meeting.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Report from PAC – Tim Berla reported that PAC heard about the Senior Center, the Leslie Science and Nature Center and Mack pool. PAC recommended closing of Mack pool ahead of the timeline proposed by staff, so the financial savings could be given to Leslie Science Center. The Huron River/Argo Dam will have a public hearing on Thursday, May 7. There is a set of recommendations available online for viewing.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw reported that the canoe liveries and golf courses are open. The river water level is too high at this time for river trips to be offered. Outdoor pools are being prepped for opening May 23.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported that Jon Strite has resigned his position from RAC. Jon has served on RAC since 2001.

Transmittals - none

Adjournment: Tim Berla moved to adjourn the meeting and Shannon Kos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairperson Paula Greeno adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC