

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Community Education and Recreation Offices

1530 Eisenhower Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Tim Berla, Sheila Calhoun, Tom George, Colleen Green, Paula Greeno, Sequoyah King, David Korman, Jon Strite, and Betty Wier Ex-Officio Members Present: Sara Aeschbach, Larry Dishman, Glenn Nelson Visitors: none

Call to Order: Chairperson Paula Greeno called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Public Commentary: none

Approval of Minutes: Tom George moved to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2008 meeting and Tim Berla seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business

A. Adding new playing fields – Tim Berla reported that there will be a presentation at the next PAC meeting regarding what is happening at Fuller Field. Consultants have been collecting information regarding the need for more athletic fields. The fields at Olson Park and Fuller will be fully rehabilitated with permanent fences being installed to limit access to the fields.

B. Charity Assistance Policy – Sara Aeschbach presented the draft of a flow chart reflecting how decisions would be made when a charity request is presented. This chart would be used by staff to process requests. After RAC input, Sara would like to formalize this process as the method to be used in responding to requests. RAC members requested that Sara keep track for the year and report back to RAC regarding how the template is working and listing requests that have been made to Rec&Ed for charitable assistance. It was discussed about whether or not the guidelines should be placed on the Rec&Ed website in an attempt to help streamline the number of requests being presented. The consensus was that the flow chart in general reflects the RAC discussion from the last meeting. The question “Is this a non-profit organization open to everyone?” should be changed to say “Is this a non-profit organization which is consistent with the district's non-discrimination policy?”

New Business

A. Sand Volleyball Courts – Sara Aeschbach reported that Sheila Calhoun investigated the possibility of using the Pfizer sand volleyball courts would not be a possibility for use by Rec&Ed teams this summer. Larry Dishman met with the athletic director of Scarlett Middle School to explore the possibility of installation of two courts on Scarlett property. Rec/Ed has asked the district to consider building these courts by using the funding set aside for building improvements with Rec&Ed providing \$15,000.00 towards the construction. It is estimated that one month will be needed for construction of the courts. Tim Berla moved to recommend the support of two sand volleyball courts at Scarlett Middle School. The motion was seconded by Sequoyah King. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Ballfield Lighting – Tim Berla submitted a series of questions to Karla Henderson regarding the field lighting, which was on the PAC meeting agenda. The city will be installing a new system which is a computerized on the internet. The lighting controls are handled via a website and passwords or by phone which operates 24/7. Installation is supposed to be in time for start of the 2008 ball season. The lighting rate will still be \$25/hour, which can be used by the City to offset the purchase of the control system which is approximately \$19,000.00.

C. Operating and Sinking Fund millage restorations – Glenn Nelson reported that with the school elections on May 6 there will be two millage requests and an election for one Board of Education trustee. The restoration of the operating millage levies 18 mills on commercial property, rentals, and second homesteads and renews 4.72 mills on primary residences. This operating millage makes up approximately 45% of the district's annual operating budget. Passage of this millage is required in order for AAPS to receive its full allocation of operating funds from the State of Michigan. The restoration of the sinking fund is a 1-mill tax last approved by voters in 2004. It was used for renovating and repairing district facilities, including mechanical and electrical upgrades, boilers, classroom ventilators, etc. With continued support of this millage, the district would repair roofs, parking lots, and add new ceilings, lighting, and school security.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from PAC

Report from PAC – Tim Berla reported there is a lobbying group regarding golf courses which resulted in City Council forming a golf advisory commission which will report to Council and PAC. The new plan for the skate park is to put it in the northwest corner of Vets Park. There is no funding available for this park and monies are being raised by the skate park group.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – none

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach distributed the Spring 2008 Rec&Ed catalog, the Summer 2008 catalog, and the Green Adventures Camp brochure. Sara also reported that the second annual AAPS district staff fitness challenge has begun, sponsored by Rec&Ed and M-Fit.

Transmittals: None

Adjournment: Jon Strite moved that the meeting be adjourned. Betty Wier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairperson Paula Greeno adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago
Recording Secretary to RAC