

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Rec&Ed Offices

1515 S Seventh St

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: Joe Erhardt, Tim Berla, Rick Dekeon, Carmen Flesher (Skyline student rep), Keeley Erhardt (Huron student rep), Susan Ball

Ex-Officio Members Present: Sara Aeschbach, Glenn Nelson, Jeff Straw

Staff Present: Elyse Bairley, Seth Dodson, Rick Mull, Karen Draves

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Joe Erhardt called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Public Commentary: None

Approval of Minutes: Tim Berla moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2011 meeting and Rick Dekeon seconded this motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Old Business –

A. RAC Commissioner Application – Susan Ball presented RAC with a revised draft of the proposed resume for candidacy. It was felt that candidates strongly interested in a position on RAC will feel free to complete with as much information as possible.

B. City Ballfield Project Update – Sara Aeschbach reported the bids were sent out for the project as explained at the last meeting. The returned bids were too high so the original plans were scaled back and restructured. The focus of renovations will be on Veterans Park, Southeast Park and West Park. PAC unanimously approved the new renovations plan. City Council will get the plan for approval at the March 5 meeting and if passed, renovations will begin in August. Rec&Ed will start the season in April with hopes of completing the season in early August. There will not be a fall baseball/softball/kickball season for Rec&Ed teams.

New Business

A. Team Sports Program Review - Sara introduced the team sports division, as the coordinator of team sports, Larry Dishman, was not available due to severe illness. A recent staffing change was the promotion of Seth Dodson to Recreational Specialist, and the promotion of Elyse Bairley to the position of Recreation Supervisor. Staff present were Elyse Bairley, Seth Dodson, Karen Draves, Volleyball Supervisor; and Rick Mull, Supervisor of Officials. Handouts included a 5-year summary of expenditures by fiscal year, as well as revenue and participation statistics. Glenn Nelson noted the decline in Adult/High School Basketball. Team sports staff felt this could be explained due to the huge popularity of soccer, which begins at a young age, and the increase of travel teams for high school/adult basketball teams. Sara Aeschbach informed RAC that Rec&Ed would be offering a 9th/10th grade high school soccer league this spring. Glenn Nelson asked team sports what changes they would like to see occur in the next two years. Seth Dodson felt that enhancing the training of coaches would prove to be a huge asset to sports programming. This would produce coaches who not only know the particular sport well, but also understand and support the Rec&Ed sports philosophy,

and are better informed about the developmental needs of children. Improved facilities would be most beneficial. Keeping up with current and new trends has a lot of appeal to participants of all ages. RAC members were asked to brainstorm “promises/guarantees/characteristics” which youth sports participants could expect from Rec&Ed programs. RAC concluded: everyone participates; building teamwork, respect for/by all participants, coach’s first priority is sportsmanship, safe competition, guarantee a well-organized infrastructure. RAC concluded adult sports participants could expect different levels of play/ability to be accommodated, a social outlet, sportsmanship, guarantee a well-organized infrastructure.

#### Briefing Agenda

##### A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – Tim Berla reported he was not present at the last PAC meeting.

B. AAPS Technology Bond- Glenn Nelson reported that on May 8 voters will be presented with a technology bond. Informational meetings will be provided to the public throughout the spring.

C. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw gave a more thorough report in light of Tim’s brevity. Huron Hills golf course is open. The unusually warm winter does not appear to be having an adverse effect on winter activities. Spring/Summer capital projects are progressing. Parks capital maintenance millage is set to expire and will be on the voter ballot in November. More information will be available at the next RAC meeting.

D. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported that the first annual Fitness Fair was held in January at Forsythe and was a big success with about 200 attendees. The fair provided an opportunity for people to meet the fitness instructors and to find a class that would be just right for them. The Hikone program is gearing up for our middle school students to travel to Japan next fall. Due to increases in airfare, the structure of the program is being revised in an effort to bring down the other expenses. The summer camp catalog will go to the printer this week. Many changes are planned in the camp offerings. Lastly, Sara shared that she plans to retire at the end of June, 2012.

Transmittals – none

Adjournment: Tim Berla moved to adjourn the meeting and Susan Ball seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vice Chairperson Joe Erhardt adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC