

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010

Rec&Ed Offices

1515 S Seventh St

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: Joanne Kimata, Betty Wier, Shannon Kos, Tim Berla, Tom George
Annie-Norah Beveridge, Sheila Calhoun

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Shannon Kos called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Public Commentary: none

Approval of Minutes: Tom George moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2010 meeting and Tim Berla seconded this motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

A. Removal of 9th graders from Rec & Ed soccer – Sara Aeschbach reported that for the first time Rec&Ed is not including 9th graders in fall soccer, as a result of parental complaints regarding size disparities in the middle school leagues. Several RAC members were disappointed with this change, and Tom George felt that it is better to be as inclusive as possible. The best solution would be to attract enough middle school players to offer a 6th-7th league and an 8th-9th league, however the numbers have been too low for this scenario.

New Business

A. Election of Officers – Vice Chair Tom George was nominated by Shannon Kos and Tim Berla seconded the motion for nomination. Support was unanimous to appoint Tom as Vice Chair. Tom George nominated Tim Berla as the PAC representative and Shannon Kos seconded the nomination. Support was unanimous to appoint Tim as the PAC liaison.

B. Annual Review of By-Laws – Article 5, Section 1 the address needs to be updated. On page 3, section 6 should be underlined. On page 5, sections 7, 8, and 9 should be underlined. Changes will be made and presented at the October RAC meeting for a vote.

C. RAC Membership – There is one vacancy on the City-appointed roster. Arjun and Tom will apply for re-appointment by the Board of Ed. Sheila Calhoun chairs the standing sub-committee for RAC membership, however she will be resigning her place on the Commission at the end of this calendar year. This means there will also be a vacancy on the Board-appointed side as well. Tim Berla recommended that a description of the position should be sent to him and he will look at recruiting for the City vacancy. Shannon Kos suggested that information be placed in the school's PTO newsletters.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – Tim Berla reported that the City is working on clearing vegetation from the retaining wall at Argo Dam. All dead and dying trees must be removed. The millrace will be closed Monday-Thursday to allow crews to work on removal of the vegetation. After

Labor Day, Argo canoe livery is only open on the weekends. An RFP was sent out for bids to offer the option either to repair the drains or reconfigure the millrace. Bids should be returned within 3 weeks. There is also an RFP being sent out to explore options for Huron Hills golf course. The PROS plan is moving forward. There will be another review and then the draft will be publicly posted for review. Tim also reported that there is plenty of opposition to the proposed parking structure at Fuller.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw reported the pools were busy during the summer due to the heat. All outdoor pools closed on Monday, September 6 and Mack Pool opened September 7. The city has been working closely with the schools to allow more pool time for programming. Senior Center recommendations are being implemented; one of which is memberships for the senior center. New programming is underway also. West Park renovations are continuing and it is hopeful the park will be ready for opening Spring 2011.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach turned the floor over to Glenn Nelson to update RAC on the resignation of Superintendent Todd Roberts and the timeline for a replacement. Glenn Nelson reported that the Board really would like to see the public involved in the search. September 10 is the deadline for proposals from search firms. On September 15 the board will narrow down their search and Todd Roberts will give his recommendations on interim appointments. Glenn Nelson feels the district is on track with selecting an interim superintendent by mid-October. It was suggested that the superintendent search be a standing item under old business for future RAC agendas. Sara Aeschbach reported the school district has determined that canoeing is an acceptable activity available to AAPS students. Rec&Ed had excellent participation in most of the summer offerings. The custodial rearrangement for the summer made for some difficult moments and meant that Rec&Ed did not have custodians in the particular buildings they were using. This will need to be addressed for Summer 2011. This is the first year that AAPS has instituted a pay-to-participate policy for athletics in both middle school and high school. Rec&Ed is processing the payments. Fall catalog has been distributed.

Transmittals – none

Adjournment: Tom George moved to adjourn the meeting and Tim Berla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairperson Shannon Kos adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC