

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Rec&Ed Offices

1530 Eisenhower Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Annie-Norah Beveridge, Sheila Calhoun, Rick Dekeon, Joseph Erhardt, Tom George, Colleen Greene, Paula Greeno, Arjun Kalra, Shannon Kos, Joanne Kimata, Betty Wier

Ex-Officio Members Present: Sara Aeschbach, Jeff Straw

Call to Order: Chairperson Paula Greeno called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Public Commentary: none

Approval of Minutes: Shannon Kos moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting and Tom George seconded this motion. Tom George moved to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2009 meeting and Colleen Greene seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business

A. Mack Pool Update – Jeff Straw reported a public meeting was held December 10 to present recommendations and ideas to the public to bridge the budget deficit for the Mack Pool operations. Next step involves a presentation to PAC on January 19 for review. City Council will also get a presentation. The current budget reductions and revenue enhancements equal about \$35,000 reduction to the anticipated budget shortfall. Sara Aeschbach added there appears to be strong public interest by the Mack Pool users to keep the pool open for public use.

B. City-School Field Agreement – Sara Aeschbach reported that the agreement has been resolved and is awaiting final Council approval. Sara was pleased with the agreement review process this year. Modifications have been made which will reduce the costs to the City and should not place undue difficulties for the operation of the programs. The new agreement is for 2-years, which will allow for longer term planning. The fees for outside users have basically remained the same with this new agreement. Sara is hopeful Rec&Ed will be able to hire employees for field maintenance, as opposed to using a private vendor. That may allow for a reduction in the field marking fees currently charged to user groups.

C. Rec&Ed Move to Pioneer – Sara Aeschbach reported the move of the Rec&Ed offices would occur the end of January 2010. Offices will be located at Pioneer High School in the E-Wing located off Seventh St. She thanked RAC for their input in regard to the signage for the new space as positive changes were made. Sara requested RAC input to recommend possible methods for announcing the new location to the public. It was suggested that bright-colored address labels be put on the cover of the new brochures; a link on the Pioneer and individual school web sites; a press release; and use of the computerized marquee on the corner of Main St and Stadium Blvd; and postings on the Rec&Ed web site. RAC members suggested that if an event or open house is planned, it should be multipurpose, around the time of a registration with special features to attract constituents to visit the new location.

New Business

A. AAPS Budget Reduction Process – Sara Aeschbach reported the district is in the process of identifying approximately \$20 million in budget cuts. There will be four public meeting dates, January 7, 12, 14 and 19 at 6:30pm at all 3 high schools and Scarlett Middle School, to share the administrative recommendations with the public for feedback and suggestions. Although Rec&Ed operates on a different budget from the district's general fund, several potential school district budget cuts would impact the department. One of the first cuts implemented January 1 was to eliminate all custodial overtime, which means Rec&Ed programs running on the week-ends will no longer have access to custodial staff. Rec&Ed will either have to pay for custodial services or hire independent staff to cover the necessary needs. There will be a financial impact to Rec&Ed regardless of how this situation is resolved. The second impact is the potential closing of pools at the middle schools. It is anticipated final decisions will be made March 2010.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – no report

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw reported the City is going through their budget process. The proposed 2-year budget plan will have a 22% reduction with a 30% reduction over the next 3 years. Potential service cuts will be made by City Council. The mowing cycle has been changed from 14 days to 19 days beginning spring 2010. Hand trimming in the parks has also been eliminated. Even with the potential closing of Mack pool and the Senior Center the City will still need to make an additional 12% in budget cuts. Renovations to soccer fields are almost complete. A task force has been organized to look at new scheduling procedures and fee structures for these fields. There has been a proposal to look at the City parking cars at parks on home football Saturdays and the presentation was approved at the last PAC meeting to recommend approval to City Council. Projected revenue for parking cars is \$20k-\$30k. Jeff also reported that Buhr Park is scheduled to open January 8 as renovations have been completed. Holiday skates at Veterans Memorial Park had very large turnouts. Jeff also reported that Jayne Miller has resigned her position from the City effective mid-February 2010. No decisions have been made regarding a potential replacement.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported that the winter catalog has been distributed. A new vendor located out of Wisconsin printed this catalog. Although there were financial savings for Rec&Ed with this vendor there have been a few issues in regards to quality.

Transmittals – None

Adjournment: Shannon Kos moved to adjourn the meeting and Sheila Calhoun seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairperson Paula Greeno adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC