

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Rec&Ed Offices
1515 S Seventh St
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: Betty Wier, Tim Berla, Tom George, Rick Dekeon, Sheila Calhoun, Colleen Greene
Annie-Norah Beveridge

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

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Tom George called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Public Commentary: Duane Collicott spoke to RAC regarding baseball field costs on behalf of his son's WABA team. The players are Ann Arbor youth, and are currently playing out of town due to the high costs of field rentals. Collicott supports the concept of the Adopt-A-Field plan to help lower the costs and allow teams to participate in maintaining the fields. Collicott would also like to bring the sport of curling to Ann Arbor. It is competitive as well as recreational, and he feels there is strong interest in the area.

Approval of Minutes: Tim Berla moved to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010 meeting and Rick Dekeon seconded this motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

A. Superintendent Selection Process Update – Glenn Nelson reported that Robert Allen has been appointed Interim Superintendent. There is a farewell reception for Todd Roberts at Skyline High School on Thursday, October 7 at 4:30pm. Nancy Hoover will assume more responsibilities for Operations/Finance and LeeAnn Dickinson-Kelly has been appointed interim Deputy Superintendent of Instruction. Overall the interim structure is in place for the 2010-11 school year. The AAPS Board of Education has hired Ray & Associates to oversee a national search for superintendent. It is anticipated there will be community meetings for input regarding qualities desired in a new superintendent.

B. RAC By-Laws Vote – Sara Aeschbach reported that minor changes were made to the by-laws at the September meeting. Tim Berla moved that RAC adopt the new by-laws as amended. Sheila Calhoun seconded the motion. The by-laws passed unanimously. Tom George raised the issue to RAC that a standing sub-committee shall have three members, and the nomination sub-committee currently has only two. Annie-Norah Beveridge volunteered to sit on the sub-committee with Sheila Calhoun and Colleen Greene to review RAC membership applications and recommend nominees.

New Business

A. Athletic Field Improvement Planning – Jeff Straw reported that meetings have begun regarding athletic field improvement planning. Attending the meetings are Sara Aeschbach, Larry Dishman, Colin Smith, Dave Barrett from PAC and Tim Berla. Sara Aeschbach reported that the city and schools are looking at all fields for improvement and that AAPS will look at the middle school fields in particular for assessments and impending improvements. An inventory and assessment is being conducted for all fields.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – Tim Berla reported PAC reviewed the 2010 finances for recreational facilities. The subsidy to parks was 1.2 million and the subsidy to golf courses was .5 million. PAC had a work-study session to look at the recommendations for the Argo Dam and Huron River improvements.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw reported an RFP has been issued for Huron Hills Golf Course. The work will involve a study of golf services/programming and consider options that may allow the golf course to continue operating at affordable prices. The city will still own the property; however, having a private company to manage the course may be an option studied by the consultants. Proposals are due to the city the end of October. An RFP has been out on Argo Dam and some have been returned for review. PAC will be making a recommendation to Council. All clearing of vegetation on the embankments has been completed. Vets ice rink is open and Buhr Park should be open in early November.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported the Hikone visitors arrived Monday and a welcoming ceremony was held at Slauson middle school this morning. The PROs plan is in draft form and will be available for public review on the city website. Sara reported the preliminary audit figures for Rec&Ed reflect a deficit; however, the final audit will not be complete for some time. Sara will bring the final audit report to RAC at a future meeting.

Transmittals – none

Adjournment: Sheila Calhoun moved to adjourn the meeting and Rick Dekeon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vice Chairperson Tom George adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC