

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010

Rec&Ed Offices

1515 S Seventh St

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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

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

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Tom George called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

Public Commentary: None

Approval of Minutes: Tim Berla moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 2, 2010 meeting and Annie-Norah Beveridge seconded this motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Old Business

A. Superintendent Selection Process Update – Glenn Nelson reported the search firm is collecting names and recruiting potential candidates. RAC members were encouraged to forward any potential candidates' names to a board member.

B. PROS Plan Status – Public comment period is Dec 7 – Jan 18 - Sara Aeschbach announced the draft PROS plan will be posted on the City website for public review. The draft includes issues that were raised at the public meetings and at the RAC focus group, including citizen concerns about ball field conditions. Tim Berla reminded members that if there is difficulty finding the draft on the website they should contact either Sara or himself for direction.

New Business

A. Lifelong Learning Division presentation and planning discussion – Sally Searls, Coordinator of Lifelong Learning, presented a copy of the Winter Rec&Ed catalog and reported that it was posted online today. Online registration begins Monday, December 13 and catalogs will be distributed the week of December 27. Sara Aeschbach reported that Lifelong Learning held an all-day staff retreat to begin the process of working on potential changes to the division in light of the budget deficit. The Lifelong Learning division has very diverse offerings with over 40 program categories. It was noted that over a 4-year period, as the economy declined so did participation and revenue. Lifelong Learning has come up with new initiatives: phone-in registration, elimination of non-resident fees for classes, increased instructor biographies in the catalogs, expanding distribution of catalogs to Saline and Dexter, offering a variety of new on-line courses, and joining Twitter and Facebook. Sally Searls informed RAC that fees will be slightly increased this winter for some programs. She distributed a listing of the new Rec&Ed online courses and asked RAC for suggestions on distributing the information to businesses and obtaining any mailing lists. It was suggested to contact the Chamber of Commerce, the Main Street Area Association and State Street Association and Glenn Nelson noted that there is an email newsletter available. Challenges facing Lifelong Learning include shortage of gym space, tennis courts and pool time; and school facilities currently do not meet the expectations of the community. Another challenge is the issue of custodians not being on duty as frequently to attend

to issues arising at the facility; and finally the division frequently has to cancel classes due to insufficient enrollment. There was a brief discussion amongst RAC members regarding the issue that Rec&Ed is no longer able to schedule and use City of Ann Arbor tennis courts. Lifelong Learning is looking at the following future improvements: instructor enewsletters, staff development for instructors and activity leaders, reaching out to new audiences and surveying the current participants. Under consideration at this time are using early bird prices to reduce classes cancelled at the last minute, targeting new segments such as young adults, newcomers and workplace programming, and suggesting other similar classes to current participants.

B. RAC Nominations - Sheila Calhoun reported that the RAC nominating committee is recommending Susan Ball and Mary Jo Gray for appointment by the City and the Schools. Sara Aeschbach reported there are current RAC members who need to reapply their positions. Tom George and Arjun Kalra will be Board of Ed appointments. Rick Dekeon needs to reapply as a city appointment. Sara presented Sheila Calhoun with a gift from RAC in acknowledgement for her service, as this is her last meeting with RAC.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – Tim Berla reported the Argo Dam realignment is moving forward.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – no report

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported that a Rec&Ed dance recital was held last weekend and a parent wrote a blog today sharing the family's experience as very positive and impressive.

Transmittals – none

Adjournment: Tim Berla moved to adjourn the meeting and Sheila Calhoun seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vice Chairperson Tom George adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC