

## MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Rec&Ed Offices

1530 Eisenhower Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Tim Berla, Sheila Calhoun, Tom George, Colleen Greene, Paula Greeno, Joanne Kimata, Sequoyah King, David Korman, Nate Nemon,

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

Visitors: Christopher Taylor, Jeff Straw, Karen Draves

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

Approval of Minutes: David Korman moved to accept the minutes of the January 6, 2009 meeting. Tim Berla seconded the motion. Sequoyah King moved to accept the minutes of the February 3, 2009 meeting. Tim Berla seconded the motion. The minutes of both meetings were unanimously approved as written.

Public Commentary: The following residents and representatives of the Kensington Valley Baseball Association and the Ann Arbor Area Baseball/Washtenaw Amateur Baseball Association addressed RAC regarding city ball diamond field costs for 3<sup>rd</sup> party users and the timeline in determining those fees: Mark Bacon, Mike Friston, JD Lindeberg, Joe Moorehouse, Bob White, Sarah Clark, Dan Kielczewski. Concerns focused on the magnitude of the price increase for use of city ball fields; the prohibitive nature of the fees, and the impact the delay of setting the fees is having on local teams trying to set their upcoming schedules and player fees. Several speakers expressed the need to have a final answer immediately.

### Old Business

A. Adding new playing fields – Tim Berla reported that field renovations are on schedule. It is probable that some of the newly renovated fields will be available for use July/August, 2009. The remaining field renovations should be complete summer of 2010.

B. City/School Agreements – Sara Aeschbach reported that the City/School Field Agreement has been forwarded to the city attorney's office. Glenn raised a concern that RAC has not been informed as to what the actual problem is with the contract and the reasoning for the delay. Another issue of concern is the resident vs. non-resident fee as defined by the city or Rec&Ed. Several baseball leagues have decided to move their practices and games to other surrounding areas where fees are less and fields are better maintained. Sara said the schools have presented the city with the proposal regarding Rec&Ed taking over the expenses of the Cultural Arts Building (CAB). The schools's proposal is for Rec&Ed to be responsible for all the maintenance and expenses of the CAB building with Rec&Ed leasing the CAB for \$1.00/per year. Sara reported that she and City Public Services Administrator, Sue McCormick, are satisfied with the city/school field agreement as it stands, but it is under review by other departments of the city. Tim Berla reported that the city is considering the closure of some facilities with the 2011 budget year.

### New Business

A. Pickleball- Karen Draves and Larry Dishman are considering offering Pickleball through Rec&Ed team sports. Pickleball is a fun game played on a badminton court with the net lowered to 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic baseball (similar to a whiffle ball) and wood or composite paddles. It is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. Rec&Ed will be hosting a free Pickleball clinic on Saturday April 4 and May 9. Ron Collison, 2009 Michigan Senior Olympic Silver medalist will be the instructor. Rec&Ed will be targeting the age 16 and up population and has selected Tappan

Middle School for the Pickleball location. Rec&Ed has not yet determined if this will be a league offering. Equipment will be available to loan out.

#### Briefing Agenda

##### A. Items from RAC

1. Report from PAC – Tim Berla reported PAC had a discussion regarding the issues of Argo Dam. Council needs to tell the State of MI what it is going to do regarding replacing, repairing or removal of the dam.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Colin Smith reported that a large number of staff went to the Michigan Parks and Recreation Commission seminar to hear ideas and share information with other communities. Colin introduced Jeff Straw as the Parks & Recreation Deputy Manager as of July 2009. Jeff will be attending future RAC meetings. A Petanque facility will be built at Burns Park located between the current shelter and Wells Street. This will not interfere with any current fields.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation –Sara Aeschbach reported that fellow RAC member Betty Wier has taken a fall and broken her hip and femur but is recovering well and should be released from rehabilitation later this week. The Rec&Ed 2009 Summer Camp catalog has been released. This catalog is distributed through the schools, public libraries, and will be mailed to customers upon request.

Transmittals - none

Adjournment: Tim Berla moved to adjourn the meeting and Tom George seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairperson Paula Greeno adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC