

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009

Rec&Ed Offices

1530 Eisenhower Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Sheila Calhoun, Paula Greeno, Joanne Kimata, Colleen Greene, Tom George, Tim Berla

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Paula Greeno called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Approval of Minutes: Joanne Kimata moved to accept the minutes of the Sept. 8, 2009 meeting. Colleen Greene seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Public Commentary: None

Old Business

A. Mack Pool Update – Sara Aeschbach reported that there are 3 sub-committees currently meeting to look at increasing revenue, evaluating expenses and reassessing the city-school agreement. A public meeting is scheduled for November 19 in the evening so the committees can give an overview of their progress. In order to maximize the use of the pool, the schools will release any time during the school day that the pool is not used for instruction. City staff members are looking at potential public users for those times. Significant progress has been made by all 3 sub-committees. There will be another public meeting in December to discuss final recommendations by the committees. Paula Greeno asked if there may be an interest in an adult water polo league. Sara said one of the biggest revenue producers for Mack Pool is the Masters' program, which brings in approximately \$30,000; compared to rental groups which only bring in approximately \$3,000. Colleen Greene suggested inner tube water polo. Sara mentioned there is also a committee working on trying to save the Senior Center. Jeff Straw said there are also sub-committees formed for that task. A grant has been awarded by the AAACF to help analyze sustainability of the senior center. Glenn Nelson inquired if alternative staffing models are being explored in regard to Mack Pool. 60% of the staff salary is for Mack and 40% is for Fuller pool staffing. Offering the pool to the schools is not being actively pursued at this time.

B. RAC Membership – Sara Aeschbach reported that RAC is close to having candidates for all of the current vacancies. She is hopeful that the nominations can be given to the School Board and Mayor at the same time. Colleen Greene inquired if there should be permanent 2-yr student appointments to RAC. Various avenues of recruiting students were discussed by RAC members, including Glenn's suggestion to use the Rec&Ed data base to find students who have participated heavily, or choosing 18 year olds who would be eligible to serve for the City or School seats.

New Business

A. Code of conduct for adult players – Sara Aeschbach reported that feedback from the players' survey was reviewed by Rec&Ed and one of the largest concerns addressed having a code of conduct for adult players which Rec&Ed currently does not have. Larry Dishman reported the largest

concern was regarding inappropriate or unsportsmanlike remarks during a game and that the umpires didn't manage the situations with a strong hand. The players did not feel that changes needed to be made to make more punitive changes to the current standards. Rec&Ed would like to consider the following options: requiring a code of conduct for participants to make a commitment to good sportsmanship, requiring a coach/captain statement to manage players behavior, training for umpires or leaving the current practice in place. Larry said Rec&Ed currently deals with these situations minimally. Tom George felt that coaches and umpires should have the tools available to deal with these situations swiftly and appropriately. Sara distributed the current Rec&Ed suspension and hearing procedures and the adult sports coach's responsibility and sportsmanship agreement currently used for basketball only. It is feasible that this could be incorporated into individual player contracts. There is currently a youth sports coach's code of ethics, signed by the coach. Sara feels that training for the umpires is a positive and should be implemented. Tim Berla spoke to the practices in Ultimate, and suggested that "spirit of the game" should be the number one goal. He also reported that there are leagues where the teams score spirit after each game. The goal is for the central organizers to hear about an issue as soon as it occurs so it can be dealt with efficiently and effectively. Tom George suggested implementing a points system for rating teams on sportsmanship. Tim Berla suggested that coaches file a report after each game via email or text messaging. Sara felt that the adult sports program currently does not have a shared understanding of the philosophy of recreational sports and feels it is Rec&Ed's job to provide this. Paula suggested some rapid cycle reporting to surface problems quickly, so they can be addressed.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – Tim Berla reported the new fields at Fuller and Olson parks are in great condition. Half of the fields at Fuller are fenced in and the other half should be available for use summer 2010. The disc golf course is progressing. The Argo Dam is on the City Council agenda as the state is requiring more information.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw reported Veterans' park is open for ice facilities, canoe liveries and golf courses are still open but will be winding down as fall approaches.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported the Hikone visitors arrived Monday, October 5 and will be here through Friday. Fundraiser events are underway for students to travel to Japan the end of October. Rec&Ed is working on fiscal year-end reports. Financially it looks as if Rec&Ed ended the year in solid standing. Offices will move January 2010 to Pioneer High School and planning is currently underway. Rec&Ed will have a separate address from Pioneer as well as a dedicated entrance off Seventh Street. Rec&Ed is working on defining customer service goals department-wide. Sara reported that summer participation was solid, even with the changes in location due to certain school facilities not being available. Talks have begun regarding the ball field agreement with the city, which expires December 2009.

Transmittals – None

Adjournment: Tom George moved to adjourn the meeting and Tim Berla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairperson Paula Greeno adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC