

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010

Rec&Ed Offices

1515 S Seventh St

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present:, Tim Berla, Annie-Norah Beveridge, Rick Dekeon, Joseph Erhardt, Colleen Greene, Arjun Kalra, Shannon Kos

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Shannon Kos called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Public Commentary: None.

Approval of Minutes: Colleen Greene moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2010 meeting and Joe Erhardt seconded this motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Old Business

A. Superintendent Selection Process Update – Sara Aeschbach reported public forums were held in the district regarding the superintendent search. It is hopeful a new superintendent will be announced March 2011 with a start date of next summer. Glenn Nelson shared that Wednesday, November 3 the Board of Ed will finalize the timeline, the profile, and choose a compensation amount. February 2011 will begin the review process of semi-finalists.

New Business

A. Scholarship Program & Senior Discounts – Sara Aeschbach reported that Rec&Ed tracks scholarship awards and the trend in general has been increased requests and awards. The number of adult scholarships increased for 2009-10 while there was a decrease in youth scholarships. A total of 1347 Ann Arbor families were served under the scholarship program. Rec&Ed started a 50% scholarship program which is showing great success. It meets the needs of families who do not strictly meet the financial requirements; however, have requested assistance. Rec&Ed would like to offer a customer service satisfaction survey to families to obtain feedback regarding the programs, their experience, and the scholarship process. An online survey will be offered to those families with email addresses and all others will mailed directly to participants. Sara requested of RAC suggestions for potential survey questions. RAC suggested asking participants about the scholarship application process. It was also recommended participants be asked if there were any impediments to the process or their participation. A sliding scale was discussed, as well as the potential for different guidelines for adults than youth. There were 528 senior citizens who participated in programs in 2009-10 with a total value of \$17,000 in senior discounts.

B. 2009/10 Year End Financials – Sara Aeschbach reported that Rec&Ed suffered its worse financial fiscal year during her tenure as director. The SACC program showed improvement; however the overall department was in a large deficit. Approximately \$200,000-\$230,000 of this deficit comes from rent before the move to Pioneer and the actual moving expenses, which were planned expenditures. 2009-10 showed inadequate revenue to cover actual expenses. Rec&Ed is looking at many potential adjustments to alleviate the deficit, including increasing the minimum

number of participants required to run a class as well as doing a market comparison of fees to determine if Rec&Ed fees need to be increased. Several Rec&Ed classes which used to be revenue-generating programs have shown a decrease in enrollment. Rec&Ed will hold retreats with each of the divisions and strategic plans will be developed to determine what needs to be done to get Rec&Ed out of its deficit position. Joe Erhardt suggested that previous years fiscal reports be made available for comparison analysis. Sara Aeschbach will distribute this information to RAC members. Shannon Kos suggested that once the division retreats have been completed, RAC should be used as a sounding board for potential changes.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – Tim Berla reported PAC had a classic meeting with much discussion regarding the Argo Dam. Suggested expenditures to enhance river recreation led to some protest from skatepark advocates, who are raising money for a new skatepark.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw reported the pathway through Argo Dam will be paved and made more accessible to patrons. City staff did not recommend that \$180,000 funding be added on for white-water rafting; however, PAC voted to recommend that expenditure to Council. Two proposals were received on the RFPs requested for Huron Hills golf course. Those RFPs are under review at this time. Canoe liveries are closed for the season and both city ice rinks are open at this time.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach had no report.

Transmittals – none

Adjournment: Joe Erhardt moved to adjourn the meeting and Rick Dekeon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairperson Kos adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC