

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Rec&Ed Offices

1530 Eisenhower Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Tim Berla, Tom George, Sheila Calhoun, Betty Wier, Paula Greeno, Sequoyah King,

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

Visitors: none

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

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes was postponed until the March meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Public Commentary: none

Old Business

A. Adding new playing fields – Tim Berla reported there will be two meetings in regard to field usage. It is not known at this time when the renovated fields will be available. Work continues at Olson Park. The University of Michigan is not expected to take possession of the Pfizer property until May or June 2009.

B. City/School Field Agreement - Sara Aeschbach reported that she and Larry Dishman met with Sue McCormick last week along with a number of city staff members. New items were brought to the table and have yet to be resolved. Most significantly, the City is considering handling the scheduling of ball diamonds. The next meeting with staff will be Friday February 6. Rec&Ed's main concern of the field agreement is the timing, as games begin April 1, 2009. The 3rd party users are anxiously awaiting the new fee structure and want to get their fields reserved promptly. Tim Berla plans to request that both school employees and city employees present at the next PAC meeting on February 24 to address proposed changes in the Cultural Arts Building (CAB) and the ball diamonds. Sara informed RAC that she investigated the issue of AAPS owing the City money for expenses of Mack Pool, as that issue was raised at the last RAC meeting. Both City and School staff confirmed that there were no outstanding invoices. At this time the city has proposed a lease for Rec&Ed for the CAB at an estimated rental fee of approximately \$45,000/per year. Currently the district is considering all options, including the possibility of either renting it for \$1 and simultaneously taking over all costs and liabilities associated with the building, or buying the building from the City. Rec&Ed heavily programs the building for over 3,000 registrants, and it provides the only daytime space currently available to the department.

New Business

A. Weathering a tough economy – Sara Aeschbach reported that Rec&Ed fall enrollment was comparable to fall enrollments in past years; however, winter enrollment is down so Rec&Ed is trying to anticipate how to address a potential declining participation. One of the items to be considered is pricing and it was decided that Rec&Ed would leave summer camp prices the same for 2009 as they were in 2008. It is expected that costs for staff and health care for Rec&Ed will increase. Tim Berla suggested offering a discount to customers registering for classes that are close to the registration deadline and yet have space for more participants. Glenn Nelson suggested keeping prices the same for classes that have a higher percentage of scholarship participants and raise the class fee on classes considered to be a "luxury."

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Report from PAC – Tim Berla reported that PAC has begun discussion regarding the budget reductions. There is discussion on whether or not the golf course subsidy will come out of the general fund budget. The environmental commission and PAC will talk regarding the Argo Dam/Barton Pond issue and upon completion PAC will make a recommendation. Tim encourages people to attend a meeting on Thursday, February 5 regarding Argo Dam.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Colin Smith. No report.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported that on Wednesday, February 4 the school board will hear a presentation regarding all day kindergarten and the potential for having that program in the district. There will be implications for the child care program as Rec&Ed offers half-day kindergarten care and Extended Day Option kindergarten.

Transmittals - none

Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:50pm