

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Rec&Ed Offices
1530 Eisenhower Place
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Joanne Kimata, Paula Greeno, Sheila Calhoun, Shannon Kos, Tom George, Tim Berla, Sequoyah King, David Korman

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

Visitors: none

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

Approval of Minutes: Tom George moved to accept the minutes of both September 9 and October 7. Tim Berla seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

Public Commentary: none

Old Business

- A. Adding new playing fields – Tom George reported that he has seen a lot of work being done at Olson Park. Tim Berla reported progress is being made at Fuller Park. \$1.2-1.5 million is the estimated cost of field repair/renovation. Scheduling of the fields will become a topic of discussion at future PAC meetings. When complete there will be 6 full soccer fields at Fuller Park. Colin Smith reported there is an athletic task force that has been organized to look at the conditions and expectations of the fields.

New Business

- A. Rec&Ed Website Review - Sara Aeschbach wanted RAC to look at the Rec&Ed website in an effort to get feedback on the usability of the site. She encourages staff to review the site frequently, and there have been renewed efforts to keep the site current. The Rec&Ed website is heavily used by the public and Sara is interested in making the site as user-friendly as possible. The district uses SiteMaker for website creation and Rec&Ed does not have a web master available in the department. Each division is responsible for their area. It was recommended that the home site be kept simple and clean. Rec&Ed has now added two links to reach online registration, as it was felt that clicking on the Rec&Ed logo was somewhat confusing to customers. David Korman suggested that the weather cancellation be made a priority update on the site. Tom George suggested that the registration link be made more prominent and Shannon Kos thought it would be good to put an actual online registration link under the home site. Sara felt it would be possible for the district web master to provide data to Rec&Ed regarding the number of hits in certain areas on the website. Joanne Kimata noted that the site is not very user-friendly when someone just wants to browse the catalog offerings. Sara mentioned that Rec&Ed has been advised not to make the printed catalog any larger than it already is, which has posed a problem for staff when trying

to minimize class descriptions. The printed winter catalog will offer an extended description of classes on the website. Sequoyah King suggested that Rec&Ed offer a database feature in regards to class type, location, and time that would return a list of classes to the customer. Jon Strite suggested that customers have the ability to browse more than one location when selecting class options. Joanne Kimata suggested streamlining and integrating the design and function of the home page.

- B. Agenda Planning – Paula Greeno asked RAC if there is anything they are interested in hearing about and discussing at future meetings, whether it be Rec&Ed or City related. Sara Aeschbach reported that the auditors have not finished the district’s fiscal year end report. David Korman suggested that RAC or Rec&Ed encourage contributions to the A2A3 Bob Schoenig ALS fund. Tim Berla suggested that RAC acknowledge Rob Millett, Field Operations Supervisor with the City, for his contribution to implementing the new lighting system at Vets Park by presenting a resolution from RAC to PAC.

Briefing Agenda

- A. Items from RAC
 - 1. Report from PAC – Tim Berla reported that Jeff Deboer gave a presentation regarding the crew program at Huron High School. The rowing clubs would like the river dams to remain and are interested in taking on a management plan for the pond.
- B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Colin Smith reported that the Argo Dam is not just an environmental question but will also impact several groups throughout the city. He anticipates several discussions in the upcoming months regarding the maintenance/replacement/repair of the dam. The city has acquired two new Zambonies. Buhr is scheduled to open November 14 for ice skating.
- C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported that Rec&Ed will be using the month of November for several staff meeting and planning agendas. Child care staff took part in an in-depth training. Rec&Ed administrative staff will participate in an all-day planning event on Wednesday, November 5. It is anticipated that Rec&Ed will move to Pioneer High School in January 2010.

Transmittals: none

Adjournment: Tom George moved to adjourn the meeting and Jon Strite seconded the motion, which passed unanimously as presidential election returns began. The meeting was adjourned by Paula Greeno at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Drago