

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Rec&Ed Offices
1515 S Seventh St
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: Tim Berla, Annie-Norah Beveridge, Rick Dekeon, Joe Erhardt, Tom George, Mary Jo Gray, Colleen Greene, Joanne Kimata, Betty Wier

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

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Tom George called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Public Commentary: None (2 student visitors in attendance) Xavier Malcolm and Santiago Casillo, both juniors at Skyline High School, observed the RAC meeting for their government class.

Approval of Minutes: Joe Erhardt moved to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2011 meeting and Mary Jo Gray seconded this motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Old Business

A. Superintendent Selection Process Update – Sara Aeschbach reported that there are two final candidates, Patricia Green and Michael Munoz, for the Superintendent position. On Friday and Saturday there will be public interviews for anyone to attend and view. Glenn Nelson reported there will be an opportunity on Friday for citizens to submit “reaction” forms for the Board to review. The final candidate will be chosen by the Board on Saturday.

New Business

A. Futuring Exercise (3 wishes) - Sara Aeschbach led an exercise with RAC members to gather data for a futuring exercise for the Rec&Ed department. Each RAC member was granted three wishes for the department: Annie-Norah wished for high school sports leagues and credit earning opportunities for students, advertising programs to non-residents and offering open houses for specific activities. Rick Dekeon wished for transportation scholarships, work-for-scholarship programs and field-trip opportunities for those less privileged, Tim Berla wished for a new recreation millage that is school district wide, easy access to school facilities (particularly high school fields) and for there to be a cooperative effort between recreation providers in the county and new grant funding. Mary Jo Gray wished for after school activities for students with severe cognitive disabilities as well as advertising for residents who are unaware of Rec&Ed; she also wished for a business etiquette class for teens entering the job market and a course on providing home health care. Joe Erhardt wished for an ice hockey program shorter than 9 months as well as excellent fields and being able to rent a gym during the summer. Joanne Kimata wished for a fundraising and revenue strategy and to reduce the financial barriers to participants. Glenn Nelson wished for a recreation millage devoted solely to scholarships and coordination of the jurisdictions in Washtenaw County and for investments in adults as far as adult education skills, language training for new immigrants and parenting classes. Tom George wished for human and fiscal resources and access to all facilities and fields as well as expanded programming for seniors' lifestyles and that Rec&Ed go mobile and into other communities to provide programming. Betty Wier wishes for RAC to continue and Colleen Greene wished for the best fields anywhere and

the expansion of fitness classes. Jeff Straw also wished for the best fields ever and Larry Dishman wished for a recreation millage as well as the best fields possible in Ann Arbor. Sara's goal is to share the input with Rec&Ed staff as they develop a strategic plan for the upcoming year.

B. Fall 2010 Participation and Budget Info – Sara Aeschbach reported on the Fall and Winter 2010 Rec&Ed participation. Due to the deficits in the FY 2001-10 year, fees were raised for winter classes in the life long learning division and it appears it did not detract from enrollment. Fall team sports had 3178 participants verses 3210 in 2009. Winter team sports had 2926 participants verses 2986 in 2010. Revenue for the two terms was nearly flat for team sports from '09-'10 to '10-'11. In lifelong learning, participation was down by about 400 people this fall over last, and up by about 150 over winter 2010. For the two terms, there was a net gain in revenue of about \$25,000 over 2009-10.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – Tim Berla reported the Fuller Road Station is proceeding forward, the golf courses will continue to operate as they currently are, and the PROS plan has been approved by PAC. Private fundraising efforts will be increased for the skate park. West Park is open however is still under repair with completion anticipated this fall.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw reported the PROS plan has been approved by the planning committee and sent to the State, after which it will go to City Council for approval. Budget preparations are underway. Friends of the Field program will be the first volunteer outreach program presented by the City. This program will work closely with the Rec&Ed team sports staff. Summer planning is under way for the pools, canoe liveries and golf courses.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported Rec&Ed has engaged a marketing consultant, and the process is underway for the continuation of the summer high school volunteer program. Rec&Ed is looking for a volunteer adult to oversee this program. The 2011 Summer Camps catalog is available. For the first time this catalog will be available to the surrounding Ann Arbor areas.

Transmittals – none

Adjournment: Mary Jo Gray moved to adjourn the meeting and Annie-Norah Beveridge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vice Chairperson Tom George adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC