

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

April 21, 2009

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on April 21, 2009 at 4:00pm at the Main Office with the following members present: Mmes. Ingram, Denno, Mathews, and Robinson and Messrs. Smith, Fultz, and Moeddel with Rev. Smith presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Watson, Cox, Shannon, Simmons, Kazin, Cloud-Heyob, Shafor-Frolicher, and Finnell and Messrs. Merrifield, Thomas, Pacella, Koopman, Carlisle, Reese, and Pierson.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rev. Smith turned the meeting over to Dr. Merrifield for the election of officers.

Dr. Merrifield opened the floor to accept nominations for the office of President of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to nominate Kazava Smith for the office of President for a term of one year and until the election and qualification of his successor.

Motion passed.

Dr. Merrifield asked if there were further nominations for the office of President of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. There being no further nominations, Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to close nominations for President.

Motion passed.

Rev. Smith was elected President of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission by acclamation.

Dr. Merrifield opened the floor to accept nominations for the office of Vice President of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to nominated Michael J. Moeddel for the office of Vice President for a term of one year and until the election and qualification of his successor.

Motion passed.

Dr. Merrifield asked if there were further nominations for the office of Vice President of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. There being no further nominations, Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to close nominations for Vice President.

Motion passed.

Mr. Moeddel was elected President of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission by acclamation.

Dr. Merrifield congratulated Rev. Smith and Mr. Moeddel on their re-election.

Rev. Smith assumed the chair.

MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2009 Public Recreation Commission as submitted.

Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to Dr. Merrifield from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Merrifield received a letter from the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. requesting his participation on a panel of departmental leaders and council members on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Dr. Merrifield will participate on this panel. This item was received for filing.

Note to Dina Hanks from Patty Grist

Dina Hanks, Coordinator of Senior Olympics, received a note from Patty Grist saluting Ms. Hanks' efforts for the remarkable Senior Olympics series of events. This item was received for filing.

Picture in *Cincinnati Enquirer* of McKie Kids

A group of kids from our McKie Center were pictured on the front page of the April 6, 2009 *Cincinnati Enquirer* with Mayor Mallory during one of the Mayor's speeches. This item was received for filing.

Email from Gina W. Marsh, Office of Councilmember Greg Harris, to Dr. Merrifield

Ms. Marsh recognized Tom Reese, SAC at our Clifton Center, as being a person who goes “beyond the call” in their jobs. Mr. Reese helped Ms. Marsh recently when her car was broken into. This item was received for filing.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Paul Macke was present and asked to address the Commission. Mr. Macke was also present at the March 17, 2009 meeting and expressed concerns about our golf management company, Billy Casper Golf.

Mr. Macke stated that he talked to Rev. Smith on March 30th and that Rev. Smith told him at that time that he would have a response to his concerns in a couple of days but as of today he hasn’t received anything. Rev. Smith told Mr. Macke that the City is looking into his questions and will reply directly to him. Dr. Merrifield informed Mr. Macke that the City’s response has been sent and he should receive it today or tomorrow and if he does not to call him (Dr. Merrifield) directly.

Mr. Macke stated that in his opinion the marketing strategy of Billy Casper Golf is not beneficial to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. He stated that he does not believe the Commission realizes the amount of money generated by Billy Casper Golf.

Rev. Smith told Mr. Macke that the Commission appreciates his concerns and that the auditor is responding to these concerns.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Caretaker for Dunham

Dr. Merrifield provided draft copies of two contracts developed for the purpose of obtaining a caretaker for the residence at Dunham Recreation Complex. Dr. Merrifield asked Rev. Smith to appoint two Commission Members to work with staff to interview and appoint a caretaker for the Dunham residence.

Rev. Smith appointed Mike Moeddel and Catherine Ingram to help staff with the process of securing a caretaker for Dunham.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Merrifield reported that the consultants for our Strategic Plan were in town last week. The consultants toured some of our facilities, attended and addressed staff at our All Staff Meeting, met with various staff throughout the week, and met with our Youth Commission Members.

Dr. Merrifield asked Rev. Smith to appoint two Commission Members to our Strategic Plan Committee. Rev. Smith and Ms. Denno will participate on this committee as well as our youth Commission Members, Brittany Robinson and Brianna Mathews.

Staff Awards

Mark Celsor reported that special awards were presented to two staff members at the All Staff Meeting on April 14th. Kathy Shannon was awarded the Leadership & Distinguished Service Award and Sandy Cloud-Heyob received the “Murph” Positivity Award.

Kathy Shannon received the Leadership & Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her leadership, motivation, innovation, and overall positive management style. Ms. Shannon has worked her way up through the CRC ranks for the last 34 years, starting in 1975 as a student Recreation Leader. Her upbeat, positive attitude shows each and every day through her hard work and smiles.

Sandy Cloud-Heyob received the Murph Positivity Award. Ms. Cloud-Heyob has been an integral part of the Athletics and Therapeutic Recreation Division during her seventeen (17) years with CRC. As a former supervisor said, “listening to Sandy on the phone with customers is music to any supervisor’s ears.” Ms. Cloud-Heyob is always looking out for the customer and really goes the extra mile every day.

Winners Walk Tall

Mike Thomas reported that they had spoke to the Winners Walk Tall group and decided to pilot they program at three recreation centers; Dunham, Clifton, and Oakley.

Mr. Thomas introduced David Jennings from Winners Walk Tall who gave a short video about the program. The program addresses dozens of character issues and is offered at no cost to the school districts. The program inspires success in every child and provides weekly contact with the participants.

Bob Mach was the creator of the program and his son is carrying on the program.

Opening Day Parade – Staff Participation

Dr. Merrifield advised that the “Yellow Jacket Marching Band” from the Oakley Center participated in the Opening Day Parade. Greg Pierson, Service Area Coordinator at Oakley, reported that the kids are from different schools and different parts of town. It is a way to get the kids involved.

Dr. Merrifield advised that the Millvale Recreation Center had a float in the parade and they won a second place trophy.

Bicycling Inspires Kids Environmentally (BIKE Program)

Kathy Shannon provided a brief overview of the BIKE Program. It is an opportunity for the Cincinnati Police Department and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission to reconnect Cincinnati inner-city youth ages 12-17 with nature through biking. BIKE will help to foster understanding between teens and police through the common interests of biking and camping. The program emphasizes that through education and exercise, we can teach respect.

BIKE has three major components: education, exercise, and respect. BIKE will educate participating youth about biking, bike safety, and general bike maintenance. BIKE will engage and inspire youth to meet their physical goals of completing the program creating stronger bikers. At each and every event the Cincinnati Recreation Commission staff and Cincinnati Police volunteers will emphasize the importance of having respect for others, our community and the environment. The BIKE program ultimately develops young cyclists, who will

experience the physical and mental health benefits of biking while becoming future stewards of the environment.

Ms. Shannon advised that they would like to start with 20 teens and the start date is May 11th.

PVA 2009 Budget

Commissioners were provided with the revised Recreation Position Vacancy Allowance Plan.

Steve Pacella reported that the \$106,000.00 shortage will come from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies, thus assuring that hours will not be reduced at the Camp Washington and Carthage recreation centers.

Youth Commission Members Reports

Brittany Robinson introduced Emily Kinkaid. Ms. Kinkaid will be working with Mary Cox this summer with Youth Employment Programs. Ms. Kinkaid said that she is looking forward to this endeavor.

Brianna Mathews reported that CRC provides youth with safe, educational and fun centers and in addition they strive to give teens the opportunity to gain valuable work experience. CRC has received funding for the Youth Employment programs. Ms. Mathews stated that she is sure all forty Junior Counselors, forty Rec Employment Leaders, and ten Green Team Participants will have the same life changing experience as she did.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Conceptual Pool Projects

Commission Members decided to hold this item for the special working session of Commission to be held on April 28th.

Capital Improvements Bid

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the low bid of CBS Construction, LLC for the renovation of the baseball field, shelter, and basketball courts at South Fairmount.

This bid includes furnishing all necessary materials, labor, and equipment and performing all work required for the renovation of the baseball field, shelter,

and basketball courts at South Fairmount, 1667 Queen City Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214.

Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the new Policy #HR-26 – “Emergency Policy & Procedure”.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on North Avondale School Contract

Jeff Koopman provided Commissioners with a drawing of the proposed new North Avondale School facility. He reported that we have been working with Cincinnati Public Schools for a couple of years on a contract. He will proceed with the contract and have it on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

Update on Sayler Park School Contract

Jeff Koopman provided Commissioners with a drawing of the proposed new Sayler Park School facility. He reported that we have been working with Cincinnati Public Schools for a couple of years on a contract. He will proceed with the contract and have it on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

Field Trips

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the Field Trip requests as submitted.

Motion passed.

Request from Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE) to Waive Docking Fees at Public Landing

The Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE) is asking that the \$500.00 docking fee at the Public Landing be waived. Their River Education Center is housed aboard a historic sternwheel paddleboat and is usually docked by BB Riverboats at their headquarters in Newport, Kentucky. Due to logistical

changes BB is making to their docks, it is not safe for FORE to board their students at that location.

Ms. Ingram suggested that this be a one-time fee waiver only. She also asked staff to see if FORE could provide some additional programming to CRC for providing this waiver.

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to waive the \$500.00 docking fee at the Pubic Landing for FORE on a one-time basis.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

May 19, 2009

Bond Hill Center

1501 Elizabeth Place (37)

Kazava Smith, President

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D, Director