

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

July 29, 2009

The rescheduled meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on July 29, 2009 at 4:00pm at the Lindner Tennis building with the following members present: Mmes. Denno, Ingram and Robinson and Messrs. Smith, Moeddel, and Fultz, with Rev. Smith presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Cox, Shannon, Watson, and Kazin and Messrs. Merrifield, Thomas, Williams, Koopman, Carlisle, and Celsor.

MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2009 Public Recreation Commission as submitted.

Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Note of Thanks to Doug Carlisle

Doug Carlisle received a thank you note from the Tackle Staff 2009 for his help in coordinating their picnic. This item was received for filing.

Note of Thanks to the Oakley Center

Dr. Merrifield received an email from the parent of a Oakley summer camp participant sharing her gratitude of the staff at Oakley for the wonderful job they did supporting and standing up for her daughter who has a long and complicated medical history. This item was received for filing.

Email from a Happy Participant

Kathy Shannon received an email from participant Jim Parrott telling her how much he and his daughter enjoyed the Sawyer Point Fountains. This item was received for filing.

Note of Recognition from the Hartwell Valley Seniors

The Hartwell Valley Seniors wrote a note of recognition of Carole Hughes for all she has done for them. This item was received for filing.

Editorial in the Monday, July 13th *Enquirer*

Krista Ramsey wrote an editorial regarding the goodness of recreation, specifically the Millvale Community Center. This item was received for filing.

Article in the *OPRA Connection*

There was an article in the *OPRA Connection* written by Lisa Kruse entitled, "CRC – An Advocate for the Community". This item was received for filing.

Email to the City Manager regarding Camp Washington Center

City Manager, Milton Dohoney, received an email from Mike Kirchgessner asking that the Camp Washington Center not be closed. This item was received for filing.

Email from Victor Fabro regarding Dempsey Swimming Pool

Dr. Merrifield received an email from Victor Fabro regarding the "outstanding Dempsey Pool Facility and staff" and thanking CRC for another outstanding summer at Dempsey Pool. This item was received for filing.

Article in the *Enquirer* regarding the Scuba Program

There was an article in the Wednesday, July 15th *Enquirer* regarding the Discover Scuba Program being provided at Dempsey Pool. This item was received for filing.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no Communications from the Public.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Miracle League Recognition – Owen Wrassman & Charley Frank

Alayne Kazin, Service Area Coordinator of our Therapeutic Recreation Division, reported that Phase I of the Miracle League Field has been completed. Ms. Kazin wanted to recognize Charley Frank and Owen Wrassman for all of their hard work in making the Miracle League Field a reality. Ms. Kazin

presented Mr. Frank and Mr. Wrasman with plaques in recognition of their participation.

Mr. Wrasman thanked Ms. Kazin and stated that it has been a long ride. He also thanked Dr. Merrifield, Mr. Koopman, and the Commission for their help in having this dream become a reality. Mr. Frank stated that of all of the Miracle League Fields being built across the country, it speaks well of CRC that we have such a well recognized program with the kids already involved. He advised that this has been a very moving experience and he also thanked Mr. Koopman for his participation.

Rev. Smith stated that we continue to be pleased with the wonderful Therapeutic program we have here in Cincinnati. Dr. Merrifield informed that the Miracle Field is one of our top facilities. He thanked Mr. Frank and Mr. Wrasman for sticking with us to make sure that this project was completed. Ms. Kazin reported that the kids played on the Miracle Field every Saturday this summer.

Urban Play Symposium

Dr. Merrifield reported that he has been invited to attend and to speak at the Urban Play Symposium being held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This provides Dr. Merrifield the opportunity to speak about innovative programming and play. The symposium is being held as a prelude to the NRPA Convention to be held in October. Dr. Merrifield stated that he is honored to have been asked to speak. The trip is being paid for by the Urban Play Symposium.

2010 Budget Information & Work Session

Dr. Merrifield gave an abbreviated run down on what has developed with the budget in the last few days. We have been informed that more cuts are necessary due to anticipated revenues that are not coming in. We have been asked to take an additional \$284,316.00 reduction. Dr. Merrifield reported that staff believes that we will be able to absorb this additional cut through money on positions that have not been filled and we will be looking at part-time employee reduction in the fall. Next year will be a different ball game. Dr. Merrifield would like Commission to have a work session on the budget before the next

Commission meeting (August 18th). A time for this meeting will be scheduled after more information has been made available.

Program Highlight – Athletics/Aquatics

Doug Carlisle, Supervising Recreation Coordinator of the Athletic/Aquatic Division showed a short video of the NFL Flag Football Championship Game that was held on Christmas Day 2008. Mr. Carlisle stated that as the video indicates, we provide more than sports, we create life experiences for our participants.

Mr. Carlisle then showed a video created by author and singer of the video, James Neville. The video featured the song, “Summer in Cincinnati”, and showed clips of participants enjoying the summer at various CRC pools and activities. Again Mr. Carlisle expressed how CRC activities are creating life experiences.

Mr. Carlisle introduced James Neville who is a former CRC lifeguard and worked in the CRC Marketing and Design Division for a while. He is now an art teacher. This video was made possible by a grant we received from the US Swimming Foundation. The remainder of the grant will be used for swim lessons. Mr. Carlisle introduced Lois Gribbler. Ms. Gribbler has been with our Aquatic Division since 1968. Ms. Gribbler informed that a portion of the grant was used for swim lessons this summer and we hope to use the balance this winter at our indoor pools for swim lessons. She advised that our goal is to have every child in the city be able to swim by the second grade.

Commissioners commended Mr. Neville on the great job he did on the video and thanked Ms. Gribbler for the wonderful job she has done and is doing with our swim program.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Demolition of the Building at 870 Blair Avenue

The building at 870 Blair Avenue was leased to Victory Neighborhood group since the early 1990's. The group lost their funding and abandoned the building last fall. The building is in terrible shape due to neglect, broken mechanical systems and vandalism. Estimates to renovate the building to meet

current codes far exceed \$2 million. Staff recommends demolition of the building.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the demolition of the building at 870 Blair Avenue.

Motion passed.

Capital Improvement Bid – Irrigation project at the Reeves Golf Course

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the bid of the Southern Group, Inc., in the amount of \$574,520.00 for the irrigation project at the Reeves Golf Course.

Motion passed.

Mr. Paul Macke asked where the money for the irrigation project came from. Mr. Koopman responded that the project is being completed with Bond Money. Mr. Macke asked for detailed information and Mr. Koopman stated that he would get the information for Mr. Macke.

Capital Improvement Bid – Oakley Ball Field Renovation and New Walking Trail

After much discussion regarding the source of revenue for the Oakley Ball Field Renovation and new Walking Trail; Ms. Ingram moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the bid of the Jeffrey Allen Corp. in the amount of \$131,297.00.

Motion passed.

At this point Commissioners all agreed that they want an agreement with the Foundation put into place. Dr. Merrifield said that he would work on having this completed.

Capital Improvement Bid – Hollister Tennis & Basketball Renovation

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the bid of Westside Paving and Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$139,770.00 for the Hollister Tennis & Basketball Renovation.

Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Dunham Caretaker's Contract

Pages 9 and 10, Scope of Services, on the Dunham Caretaker's Contract has been revised.

Ms. Denno moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the Dunham Caretaker's Contract as submitted.

Motion passed.

Dunham Rental Agreement

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram to approve the Dunham Rental Agreement as submitted.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Request from Cincy Blues Fest for Rule Exemption

Ms. Denno moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the request of the Cincy Blues Fest for the following rule exemptions:

1. To conduct a raffle for souvenir merchandise and donated musical instruments for the purpose of raising funds to offset their expenses.
2. To allow the musical acts to perform until midnight on both nights.
3. To conduct a "gated event" where individuals pay a nominal admission fee of \$10.00 on Friday and \$15.00 on Saturday.

Motion passed.

It is noted that the Commission has requested to see financial statements of vendors requesting rule exemptions.

Request from Media Latina, LLC for Rule Exemption

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the request of the Media Latina, LLC for a rule exemption to hold a raffle at the 2nd Annual Cincinnati Salsa Festival.

Motion passed

It is noted that the Commission has requested to see financial statements of vendors requesting rule exemptions.

Revision of Lifetime Golf Policy – PFO-12

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the revision of the Lifetime Golf Policy – PFO-12, to include the statement that nominees for Lifetime Golf Privileges may only be presented to Commission two (2) times for approval.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

August 18, 2009

Main Office Board Room

805 Central Avenue – Suite 800 (02)

Kazava Smith, President

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D, Director

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