

## THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

August 18, 2009

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on August 18, 2009 at 4:00pm at the Recreation Main Office with the following members present: Mmes. Denno and Ingram, and Messrs. Smith, and Fultz, with Rev. Smith presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Watson, Kazin, Barnes, and Simmons and Messrs. Merrifield, Thomas, Pacella, Koopman, Carlisle, and Celsor.

### MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2009 Public Recreation Commission as submitted.

Motion passed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Article in the *Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Magazine*

Lisa Kruse, Communications Specialist, had the article "Cincinnati Recreation Commission Partnering Makes It Possible" in the *Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Magazine*. This item was received for filing.

#### Article in *The Enquirer* by Commission President KZ Smith

CRC President KZ Smith had an article in *The Enquire* stating CRC's position regarding the City's need to reduce overall spending this year and next. This item was received for filing.

#### Article in *The Enquirer* regarding Service Area Coordinator, Kelly Kerr

Enquirer reporter, Krista Ramsey, wrote an article regarding Kelly Kerr's terminal illness and her dedication to the kids and community at Millvale. This item was received for filing.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Paul Macke was present and asked to address the Commission. Rev. Smith invited him forward and advised him that he would have two (2) minutes to address the Commission.

Mr. Macke had three (3) questions he wanted answered pertaining to our Golf Management Company. Dr. Merrifield asked Mr. Macke to put his questions in writing and forward them to the Commission Office and we would be glad to answer them. Mr. Macke had the questions in writing and presented them to the Commission.

Rev. Smith thanked Mr. Macke for his interest and said he would receive replies to his questions as soon as possible.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Program Highlight – Therapeutic Recreation

Alayne Kazin, Service Area Coordinator of our Therapeutic Recreation Division gave a slide presentation reviewing TR highlights for 2009 and passed out a handout titled "What is Inclusion?"

Inclusion Services include before/after school day camp, summer day camp, and adult inclusive programs. There were 25 children in the before/after school day camps in 2009 and the summer day camp program included 85 request for accommodations and 65 inclusion support assistants. All CRC adult/senior programs are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

There are 5 Therapeutic Recreation Specialized Day Camps; Dunham, College Hill, Madisonville, and two E.N.E.R.G.Y ("Education, Nutrition, Exercise, Recreation for a Growing You") Camps. Seventy-one teens, ages, 13-19, participated in the Specialized Day Damps.

Therapeutic Recreation Aquatic Programs include Adapted Aquatics, TR Sharks Swim Team, Spina Bifida Learn to Swim, Arthritis Aquatics, and Scuba. Blaze Sports/Paralympics include strength training, wheelchair football, wheelchair tennis, Spina Bifida therapeutic playgroup, adult sport and social,

inclusive fitness and conditioning, inclusive golf leagues, kids' golf clinic, accessible golf clinic/scramble, and accessible golf lessons.

The Grand Opening of the Miracle League Field was held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Phase I, a culmination of 4 years of work between CRC, the Reds' Community Fund and the Rotary is now complete. Phase II will bring the completion of the shelter house and restrooms. 100 participants, 100 buddies, and 6 teams are enjoying the field.

Lakers Basketball includes 30 participants. They were state champs in 2008. TR Sports and Fitness includes Bowling, Learn to Play Tennis, Food Fun Fitness, and Stepping Out. Leisure Programs include outings, Overnight Camping Trips (Adventure Outpost – Spring and Fall), Dances, Karaoke, and Movie and Dinner.

Ms. Kazin stated that staff does an excellent job with case management, requests for accommodations, and assessment planning. Rev. Smith thanked Ms. Kazin and the TR staff for their dedication and hard work.

#### Strategic Planning Report & Survey

Dr. Merrifield informed Commissioners that we have accumulated a good deal of ideas from staff and communities for our Strategic Business Plan. Commissioners received a draft of the Business and Strategic Master Plan Findings and Issues and a copy of the CRC Citizen Survey dated August 2009.

Mr. Bill Beckner, President, CEHP, Inc. advised that most of the information has been collected and that they are in the process of putting it all together. He said it comes down to finding out what it cost to do business and setting priorities.

Mr. Beckner advised that the Citizen Survey is not a final result, it needs editing. He stated that the Cincinnati Recreation Commission has a dedicated staff that needs training in some areas. The CRC staff morale has taken quite a hit with the budget cuts over the past few years. CRC needs stable funding and support for staff.

Mr. Beckner reported that the survey shows people are familiar with CRC. The use of our facilities is high at 65%. The survey indicated that 78% are willing

to travel 2 miles to a facility and that people are willing to spend additional dollars for CRC.

There are three funding options:

- Become an Independent District (not feasible)
- Levy of Property Taxes
- Increase Income Tax

Commissioners had many questions pertaining to the Strategic Planning Report and the Survey. It is important to get a retreat scheduled. Commissioners and staff will work on setting a date for the retreat.

Rev. Smith thanked Mr. Beckner for his work and for being at the meeting today to review the reports.

## PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

### Renovation Project at Oskamp Recreation Area – Update

Mr. Koopman advised that staff is working with the Reds' Community Fund on the ballfield renovation project at Oskamp Recreation Area. The Reds' Community Fund is supplying ballfield dirt, benches, soil conditioner and the labor to mix the conditioner into the infields. All work is being coordinated through our contractor. The Reds' Community fund will supply the usual signs for the backstops.

### Possible New Hartwell Ballfields, Parking, and Walking Trail – Information

Mr. Koopman reported that a developer is interested in building Medical Office Buildings at the Hartwell Ballfields that would support the Drake Facility in their operations. The concept project would be built on Galbraith Road where CRC's ballfields now exist and in exchange the developer would build 3 new ballfields on the adjacent armory site. In addition to the ballfields, CRC would get parking for the new fields and a walking trail that will tie into the proposed trail on the Drake property. Staff is working with Community Development and the Manager's office on this project.

## Capital Improvements Bid – Evanston Family Aquatic Center at the Evanston Recreation Center

The new Family Aquatic Center will replace two existing pools located at the Hoffman School grounds and the Evanston Park site. This project is part of Recreation's Aquatic Plan to put pools at the recreation centers.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the lowest bidders passing SBE for the construction of the new Family Aquatic Center at the Evanston Recreation Center. The bids are as follows: Universal Contracting Corporation – Item #1, \$1,236,200.00; Assignment Fee – 5%, \$10,352.50; Queen City Mechanical – Item #2, \$128,200.00; JSMS – Item #3, \$15,000.00; B & J Electrical Company – Item #4, \$63,850.00; total bid \$1,513,788.50. The Engineers estimate was \$2,000,000.00.

Ms. Ingram reiterated that it is important that the Community know what we are doing.

Motion passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1009 Budget & Program Update

Dr. Merrifield provided Commissioners with a letter regarding the most recent information regarding our 2009 third/fourth quarter budget reduction and our 2010 budget targets. The 2010 "budget targets" is a work in progress.

Most recently CRC was asked to meet an additional 2009 budget reduction in the amount of \$308,600.00. This reduction along with the earlier PVA and Mid-Year reductions now total over \$506,830.00 in budget reductions to our original 2009 budget allocation. That said, the current year budget amount is \$15,295,332.00.

The service impact of these reductions will necessitate a reduction in operating hours at several recreation centers, fewer fall program offerings, and fewer outdoor trash pick-ups at the current frequency.

Dr. Merrifield commended staff for the work they have done and thanked Commission for their efforts in working with our elected officials and community.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Facility Rental Agreement with Montgomery Inn, Inc. for the Use of the Sawyer Point Skating Pavilion Rink and Building

This agreement will provide more in depth specifics to our rental policy of Sawyer Point Skating Pavilion with Montgomery Inn Boathouse. The agreement addresses the installation and removal of large tenting, associated permits, public access points and a rental rate per day.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the Facility Rental Agreement with Montgomery Inn, Inc. for the use of the Sawyer Point Skating Pavilion Rink and Building.

Motion passed.

### Fernbank Golf Course Lease Agreement

The current lease agreement requires a yearly payment of \$1,200.00 to CRC. The Fernbank operators are requesting a rate reduction to \$1.00 per year. Five years previous to last year the operation broke even, last year they lost money. The new agreement will be for eleven months and will allow ample time for both the Park Board and CRC to reevaluate the property and the operations before a longer term agreement is put back in place.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the new lease agreement with the Fernbank Golf Course.

Motion passed.

### Special Meeting of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission

There will be a Special Meeting of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 8:30am for the purpose of Personnel Actions.

Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

**September 15, 2009**

**Waterfront Administration Office**

**705 East Pete Rose Way (02)**

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Kazava Smith, President

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Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D, Director

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