

## THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

May 20, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on May 20, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Price Hill Community Center with the following members present: Mmes. Driehaus, Ingram and Robinson and Messrs. Smith and Moeddel, with Rev. Smith presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Barnes, Simmons, Shannon, Watson, Lemons, Durham and Re and Messrs. Merrifield, Thomas, Celsor, LeConey, and Witherspoon.

### MINUTES

Ms. Driehaus moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2008 Public Recreation Commission as submitted. Ms. Ingram abstained.

Motion passed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Email to Norman Merrifield from Mikle D. Brown

Dr. Merrifield received an email from Mikle D. Brown, Social Action Committee Chairman of the Beta Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., thanking Karen Milford, Jim Boyle and Ayanna Sneed of the Hirsch Recreation Center for assisting them with their annual Easter egg hunt. This item was received for filing.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No action was taken at this time.

Ms. Ingram questioned this agenda item. Dr. Merrifield advised that he had added this item and that it is common practice to have an item for communications from the public on the agenda. Ms. Ingram wanted to know if public notification had been made on this item and if not, how the public would be aware of it. Dr. Merrifield stated that our meetings are open to the public and this

is a procedure to follow if anyone would like to address the Commission at a meeting. He stated that he will check *Robert's Rules of Order* for the verification of procedure.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Updates

- Dr. Merrifield provided Commissioners with the internet address and password to access CRC's internal publications on Cricket. This will enable Commissioners to review our Policy Manual for future discussion.
- A meeting has been scheduled on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm at the Dunham Recreation Center to discuss the possible change of location for the Miracle League Field.
- Dr. Merrifield provided copies of the Sawyer Point Schedule of Events. The cost of providing these events is becoming increasingly expensive. He advised Commissioners that he shared this information at the City Manager's meeting this morning.
- Commissioners received copies of the Price Hill Calendar of Events and the center's Newsletter. Ms. Driehaus complimented staff on the great job they have done with these communications.

### Program Highlight (West Region – Price Hill Center)

Steve LeConey, Supervising Recreation Coordinator of the West Region, advised that the Price Hill Center is a model of how Community Centers can work. It is a very busy center. Sandy Lemons, Service Area Coordinator, worked hard to get Price Hill licensed to be able to use vouchers for their Day Care Program.

Ms. Lemons welcomed everyone to their home, their family. She said that is exactly what the Price Hill Center is. They have a lot of community support and everyone from agencies to individuals pitch in to help.

Price Hill Center staff members gave a brief presentation of the programs at the center. April Durham is in charge of Senior Programming, Rachel Re is in charge of the Day Camps, and Tonaruse Witherspoon (Spoon) is in charge of the

Drop-in Program, Teens and Sports. Ms. Durham shared a beautiful quilt that the seniors have made. Ms. Re advised that they have 350 children participating in the snack program. Mr. Witherspoon stated that they have 75 – 100 kids a day participating in the drop-in program.

Commission members thanked staff for their warm welcome and congratulated them on the great job they are doing.

#### Youth Commission Member Report

Youth Commission Member, Brittany Robinson, reported on the Mayor's Press Conference held in April at the Pleasant Ridge Community Center. She reported that the Mayor stressed the importance of teen employment including the Junior Rec Corps, the Green Team, Artworks, etc. Artworks has just finished a mural on 9<sup>th</sup> Street across from the Phoenix that several SCPA students were involved in.

Ms. Robinson stated that in April her orchestra was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall. This was Ms. Robinson's second time performing at Carnegie Hall. Their orchestra is all strings and was the smallest orchestra performing. They have been invited back annually.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Ride the Ducks Newport

Kathy Shannon introduced Kevin Smith from the Newport Aquarium.

Mr. Smith advised that the "Duck" is an amphibious transport vehicle which will enter the water with its passengers. The tour will begin at Newport on the Levee, where tickets will be sold. A trip over the Taylor Southgate Bridge brings the vehicle to the Cincinnati Public Landing where the boat/bus enters the water. They will travel up river and then down river and will then exit the river and head back to the Newport Aquarium.

Rev. Smith asked for clarification of the liability responsibility of this program. Mr. Smith advised that the Recreation Commission will not be liable. Rev. Smith asked if other cities currently operating this tour were paid the same

annual fee. Mr. Smith replied that he did not have that information and that in some of the cities the “Ducks” had private docks.

Ms. Ingram asked if the tours would overlap with any of the events scheduled at the Waterfront. Ms. Shannon informed that the Ride the Ducks organizers had been provided a calendar of events and agreed these dates would be “blacked out” for tour dates. She explained that all this would be part of the verbiage of the agreement.

The major points of the Agreement will be:

- The Contractor shall have use of the Public Landing from April through November
- The Contractor shall pay to the Recreation Department an annual fee of \$500.00 for embarking one to four buses a day
- The daily operation will run from 9am – 7pm
- The Public Landing will be used solely for the operation of its excursions
- The Newport Aquarium will comply with all statutes, ordinances, rules and policies of Federal, State, County and City Governments
- The Newport Aquarium will obtain a Certificate of Insurance for not less than \$1,000,000.00
- The operation will not take place when the river is at 35 feet or above
- Test runs will take place in the next 2 weeks

Ms. Driehaus moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to move forward with the preparation of the contract.

Motion passed.

#### Field Trips

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

Motion passed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made that an Executive Session of the Recreation Commission be held pursuant to Section 121.22(G) of the Ohio Revised Code for consideration of the purchase of property for public purposes or the sale of property at competitive bidding where premature disclosure of information would give an unfair advantage to a person whose interest is adverse to that of the general public. Roll call: Mr. Moeddel, yes; Rev. Smith, yes; Ms. Driehaus, yes; Ms. Ingram, yes.

The Commission came out of Executive Session and the General Session resumed.

### COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Friday, June 6, 2008 at 9:00am at the Recreation Main Office, 805 Central Avenue (02).

Meeting Adjourned.

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Kazava Smith, President

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Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D., Director

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