

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

June 17, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on June 17, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Lindner Tennis Building with the following members present: Mmes. Driehaus and Ingram and Messrs. Moeddel and Fultz, with Mr. Moeddel presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Barnes, Simmons, Shannon, Watson and Arszman and Messrs. Merrifield, Thomas, Celsor, Jones, Boyle, Bailey, Hemmings, Moore and Carlisle.

MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Driehaus, to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2008 Public Recreation Commission as submitted.

Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Pictures in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*

College Hill Recreation Center table tennis play was highlighted in the "Your Hometown" section of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. This item was received for filing.

Letter from the Fine Arts Fund

Dr. Merrifield received a letter from Scott Provancher, Vice President and Campaign Director of the Fine Arts Fund. Mr. Provancher thanked Dr. Merrifield for appointing Mark Celsor to head up the Fine Arts Fund and thanked CRC for the great job they did on the campaign. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Diann Harper with "Break for Peace" Committee

Ms. Barnes received a letter of thanks from the Greater Cincinnati Mediation Council for the participation of CRC youth in their May 5th event on Fountain Square. This item was received for filing.

Email from Councilmember David Crowley

Dr. Merrifield received an email from Councilmember Crowley congratulating him on the wonderful grand opening of the Otto Armleder Memorial Regional Aquatic Center at Dunham Recreation Complex. This item was received for filing.

Letter from the Northside Parade Committee

Dr. Merrifield received a letter from the Northside Parade Committee thanking CRC and Steve Gerth of the McKie Recreation Center for their continued support of the Northside 4th of July Parade. This item was received for filing.

Letter Received from Terry and John Meckstroth, Jr.

Doug Carlisle received a letter of thanks from Terry and John Meckstroth, Jr. for the wonderful tennis program provided at Kuliga Park. This letter was received for filing.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no communications at this time.

Dr. Merrifield provided Commissioners a copy of a Public Notice sent to the City Bulletin for advertisement regarding this agenda item.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT (Athletic/Aquatic Division)

Doug Carlisle, Supervising Recreation Coordinator of the Athletic/Aquatic Division, addressed the Commission. Mr. Carlisle advised that the Athletic/Aquatic Division lost 3 of their 4 managers to the Early Retirement Program and has undergone a major restructuring of the division.

Back in April Dr. Merrifield came up with the idea of opening half of our pools on May 31st and half of the pools on June 9th. At the time Mr. Carlisle was not sure if this goal was obtainable but all went well and most of the pools opened on schedule. The remaining pools opened today.

The Athletic Service Area Coordinator of Youth Sports is Jim Boyle. Mr. Boyle informed Commission that once a month there is a Sports Committee

Meeting. The Sports Committee came up with the idea of having a “Girl’s Night Out”. Mr. Boyle introduced Jim Moore, Community Center Director at our Clifton Community Center to highlight this program. Mr. Moore explained that it seemed like they always had a lot going on for the boys but not as much for the girls. They decided to institute a physical and social function for the girls. This program ran for seven (7) weeks on Monday evening and gave the girls the opportunity to meet people from different centers in different neighborhoods. The program was very successful. There were about 65 participants each week. They would like to increase the attendance to 100 – 120 in the fall. The girls really want to do the program again. Mr. Moore introduced a participant of the program, Clair. Clair stated that the “Girl’s Night Out” was a lot of fun and they got a lot of exercise. She said it was nice to have time for themselves and that she made a lot of new friends.

Mr. Boyle informed that they have developed a partnership with Cricket Wireless Phone Service and received a \$3,000.00 donation. This money paid for uniforms and referee fees for their 10 week basketball program that was held at the Hirsch Center. At the end of the league they had a banquet and gave out awards. Councilmember Cecil Thomas and Director Norman Merrifield attended the banquet.

Mr. Carlisle introduced the Athletic Adult Sport Coordinator, Bill Bailey. Mr. Bailey informed that he filled in for Ron Odenbeck when Mr. Odenbeck was on sick leave. When Mr. Odenbeck retired Mr. Bailey took his position in the Athletic Division. Mr. Bailey coordinates the Seven Hills Run and NJTL (National Junior Tennis League) as well as softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, and football.

Mr. Bailey introduced Mary Hennessee to speak about the NJTL. Ms. Hennessee is a home schooling mother of eight (8) children. They consider the NJTL as their main physical education program. Many of the kids involved with the program go on to become coaches. The program really inspires leadership skills. Ms. Hennessee stated that she is really happy with the program and hopes that it continues for years to come.

Mr. Bailey informed that Mr. Tom Nerl was going to speak to Commissioners but had to leave because of a baseball game. Mr. Nerl is the "Commissioner of Baseball" and in charge of Roselawn. They have 4 baseball leagues that play at Roselawn and Hille Fields.

Ms. Driehaus commented that the partnership with Cricket is great and that she is thrilled with the girl's program. She thanked Clair for her report. Ms. Driehaus advised that she has personal contact with the softball program and that Mr. Bailey had personally umpired one of their games due to them not having an umpire. Mr. Bailey commented that they are working on the umpire problem.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Hirsch Aquatic Facility Grand Opening is tentatively set for June 30th.
- Dr. Merrifield informed Commissioners that the Mayor had a Press Conference on the 2008 Summer Food Service Program. Dr. Merrifield provided Commissioners with a copy of the food service schedule.
- Dr. Merrifield distributed copies of the 2008 – 2018 Comprehensive Recreation Business Plan Request for Proposals (RFP) and reviewed major sections of it with Commissioners. This is a road map to our future.
- There was no Youth Commission Member Report.

Ms. Ingram needed to leave the meeting at this time. She advised Vice President Moeddel that she was in favor of the remaining agenda items which required a vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff is requesting Commission approval to install the Miracle League project at the Dunham Regional Recreation Complex instead of at Oskamp. This request was tabled at the May 2, 2008 meeting pending discussion with the users of both facilities.

Only one person attended the public meeting that was held on June 3rd. There is a Westwood Civic Association meeting scheduled for tonight which staff will attend.

After discussing the benefits participants would derive from the Miracle League Ballfield being at Dunham, Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Driehaus, to approve this request; pending reasonable discussion of this move at the Westwood Civic Association meeting this evening.

Motion passed.

Newport Aquarium "Ride the Ducks" Contract

At the May 20, 2008 meeting Commission gave their approval for staff to move forward with the preparation of the contract with the Newport Aquarium's "Ride the Ducks".

Ms. Driehaus moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the Newport Aquarium's "Ride the Ducks" contract.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) Over-the-Rhine Presentation

Mr. Steve Leeper was in attendance to give Commission a presentation of what 3CDC is doing in Over-the-Rhine (OTR). 3CDC has been working in Over-the-Rhine for about 3 and 1/2 years. OTR has a poverty rate of 58% and consists of 110 square blocks with 500 vacant buildings. The police made over 23,000 calls to OTR in 2005.

In the past 30 months 3CDC and the City have invested over \$70 million in OTR. These investments include restoring historic buildings, rehabbing residential units, new and renovated commercial space, new parking spaces and streetscape improvements. They have purchased most of the liquor licenses and the crime statistics are down. Mr. Leeper showed before and after photos of property owned or controlled by 3CDC.

The proposed site of future OTR development is the Washington Park/Music Hall Garage. The total project cost is \$30.9 million. This includes park redevelopment cost and costs for an underground garage consisting of 600-800 parking spaces. A water feature is included in the park redevelopment expenses. Mr. Fultz asked if this water feature was going to be a sprayground. Mr. Leeper answered yes and they would like input from CRC in regard to the sprayground. Mr. Moeddel asked what 3CDC's expectations were for the area around Washington Park. Mr. Leeper assured that other recreation facilities would not be affected by the renovations.

Ms. Driehaus stated that residents are concerned about the loss of the deep water pool and that it is important to make sure that the water feature is an interactive feature. Mr. Leeper stated that they will work closely with CRC on the design of the water feature.

Ms. Ingram was concerned about the displacement of residents in the area. Mr. Leeper assured that there is very little displacement and that they are committed to working very hard to provide affordable housing.

Mr. Moeddel stated that it is CRC's job to make sure that everyone in the city has access to recreation. Mr. Leeper responded that 3CDC intends to and wants to provide recreation opportunities and will work with CRC on this concern.

Dr. Merrifield advised that we will continue to meet with 3CDC as the project progresses.

Revised Commission Meeting Dates

Ms. Driehaus moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the revised Commission Meeting dates and times. Effective immediately the Cincinnati Recreation Commission will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 4:00pm.

Motion passed.

Field Trips

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

Motion passed.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Capital Improvements Bid

Ms. Driehaus moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the low bid of Westside Paving & Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$41,700.00 for the demolition and site restoration at Avon Pool. This amount is to include furnishing all materials, labor, equipment and performing all work necessary to demolish the wading pool, swimming pool, shelter building and site restoration at 870 Blair Avenue.

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 the charges or complaints against employees to consider the dismissal, discipline or demotion of a public employee. Roll call: Mr. Fultz, yes; Mr. Moeddel, yes; Ms. Driehaus, yes.

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

Personnel Action

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Driehaus, to approve the Directors Designee's recommendation of a penalty of twenty-four (24) hours suspension without pay for Mr. Todd Kennedy, Truck Driver, for Neglect of Duty and additional recommendation that Mr. Kennedy attend the City of Cincinnati's Defensive Driving Training scheduled for June 26, 2008 or the next available session.

Motion passed.

COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Recreation Main Office, 805 Central Avenue (02).

Meeting Adjourned.

Michael Moeddel, Vice President

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D., Director

/kss