

## MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

August 12, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on August 12, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Bush Community Center, 2640 Kemper Lane with the following members present: Mmes. Denno, Ingram and Robinson and Messrs. Smith and Fultz, with Rev. Smith presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Shannon, Cox, Arszman, Fatora, Williams, and Benjamin and Messrs. Thomas, Koopman, Carlisle, Hemmings, Merrifield, Catron, and Celsor.

### MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2008 Public Recreation Commission as submitted.

Motion passed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Email from Kimberly Hume to Messrs. Thomas, Celsor, and Merrifield

Kimberly Humes sent an email commending the Summer Program and staff at the Mt. Auburn Recreation Center. Her daughter, Alexandra, was a participant and had a wonderful time. This item was received for filing.

#### Letter from Tracy A Techau, Boy Scouts of America to Dr. Merrifield

Dr. Merrifield received a letter of thanks from Tracy A. Techau for attending the VIP lunch at Challenge Camp. This item was received for filing.

#### Letter from W. Todd Walter, Boy Scouts of America to Dr. Merrifield

Dr. Merrifield received a letter of thanks from W. Todd Walter for his inspirational words given at the VIP lunch at Challenge Camp. This item was received for filing.

#### Letter from the Ohio River Way regarding Donation to the CRC Vision Trek Program

A letter was received from Brewster Rhoads, Doug Coates, and Teresa Lubic of the Ohio River Way stating their appreciation for all CRC does for the youth of Cincinnati and donating \$1,000.00 to the Vision Trek Program. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Councilman Chris Monzel

Dr. Merrifield received a letter from Chris Monzel complimenting CRC's Annual Report and 2007 Youth Activities Report and congratulating CRC on 80 years of outstanding service to the community. This item was received for filing.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No action was taken at this time.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Mark Celsor, Supervising Recreation Coordinator, for the East Region introduced Simone Schwarz and Thomas Joerg to Commissioners. Ms. Schwarz and Mr. Joerg are interns from Germany and will be working with various staff over the next six weeks.

Mr. Celsor then introduced Karen Williams, Service Area Coordinator, for the Bush Community Center. Ms. Williams welcomed Commission and staff to the Bush Community Center. Ms. Williams stated that staff member, Renetta Johnson, worked this summer with special events and special projects. Ms. Johnson advised that participants divided into three groups and made robots as their summer project. Representatives from each group were present and gave a brief overview of their project and reported on their activities this summer.

Group 1 was represented by Kirsten and Rico and their robot's name was Hip Hop Box. Joseph spoke for group 2. Their robot's name is Supers. Group 3, represented by Tyasia and Allison, advised that their robot is called Candybot. The participants all indicated that they had had a very busy and fun summer.

Ms. Williams asked Commission and staff to take a good look at the robots that are displayed in the lobby and to vote for their favorite. The winning robot's group will be awarded a pizza party.

Ms. Johnson thanked Commission for everything. She stated that her children and grandchildren have benefited from the programs and activities provided by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission.

Rev. Smith thanked staff and participants for the wonderful presentation.

Lynn Melzer, Service Area Coordinator of the Carthage Recreation Center and head of our Senior Division, invited Commissioners to the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Senior Citizen's Hall of Fame to take place on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Merrifield commended Stephanni Cohen and staff on the 2007 Annual Report and Youth Activities Report. They did a wonderful job.

Bunny Arszman presented the DVD, *Water's Edge*, for Commission. This DVD is about the art project at the Otto Armleder Aquatic Complex at Dunham. Artists Clare Darley and Rebecca Seeman narrated the video. The fence was laser cut and the design was of water plants. Mayor Mallory commended the artists at the dedication of the Aquatic Complex. Commission thanked Ms. Arszman for the wonderful job she did on the DVD.

Dr. Merrifield stated that we would like to recognize the staff involved with the RiverTrek Program. Kathy Shannon thanked Mary Cox for her leadership with the program. Ms. Cox stated that two police officers, Kathy Thompson and Eric Smoot, were involved in the program. They were unable to attend this meeting but we would like to thank them for their participation. Ms. Shannon stated that RiverTrek takes about 9 months of planning and that Ms. Cox pulls it all together. Mark Celsor wanted to thank Dr. Merrifield's wife, Mamie, for her participation at RiverTrek. Ms. Merrifield spent all five days on the river with the participants. Some of the staff who participated in RiverTrek were present and were recognized for their commitment to the program.

Rev. Smith asked Dr. Merrifield to report on the incident at Evanston Pool. Dr. Merrifield advised that the manager at the Evanston Pool was attacked by a participant and has resigned. Later the same night the pool was trashed. The pool had to be drained to be cleaned. The decision was made to go ahead

and close the pool for the remainder of the year. The pool manager did not want to file a police report. We encourage staff to file police reports under these circumstances. Rev. Smith stated that this was a very unfortunate incident and we are very glad that the young man is doing ok.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Youth Commissioner's Youth Program Report

Brittany Robinson reported that she has been involved in three programs during the last month.

On July 16 Ms. Robinson and Christian Armstrong participated in the NAACP Conference at the Duke Energy Center. Ms. Armstrong focused on the physical aspect of health, CRC, and youth. Ms. Robinson's speech was on how CRC builds confidence, employs youth, and develops good work skills for their future.

At the National Night Out on August 5<sup>th</sup> Ms. Robinson introduced Mayor Mallory before he spoke.

On August 7<sup>th</sup> Ms. Robinson spoke at the Youth Employment Ceremony on the importance of having the future in mind when picking a career and how CRC creates good leaders.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Request from Celtic Festival, LLC for Rule Exception

Ms. Denno moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the request from the Celtic Festival, LLC to charge an admission price of \$7.00 per day and to conduct a raffle at the festival to be held on the Central Riverfront on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Motion passed.

### Request from the Greater Cincinnati Sport Corporation

Ms. Denno moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to waive the cost of the use of Schmidt Ball Fields by the Greater Cincinnati Sport Corporation to host the

World Black American Softball Association Tournament. Schmidt Ball Fields will be one of three venues for the tournament.

Motion passed.

#### 2009 & 2010 – CIP Proposed Budget

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to approve the 2009 & 2010 CIP Proposed Budget as submitted.

Motion passed.

#### Field Trips

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted.

Motion passed.

### PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

#### Capital Improvements Bid

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the low bids of Langenheim & Thompson, General Contractor \$1,102,106.00 + Assignment – 5% \$25,305.00; Queen City Mechanicals, Plumbing & Fire \$194,400.00; JSMS, Inc., HVAC, \$186,900.00; B & J Electric Co., Inc., Electrical, \$124,800.00 (total bid \$1,633,511.00) for the remodeling and additions to the existing Hartwell Recreation Center.

The project will bring the building up to modern codes and will provide additional ADA access to the building.

Motion passed.

### COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Waterfront Administration Office, 705 East Pete Rose Way (02).

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Denno moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned.

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Kazava Smith, President

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Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D., Director

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