

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

August 2, 2011

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on August 2nd, 2011 at the main office of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, 805 Central Ave., Suite 800, Cincinnati, OH 45202 with the following members present: Rev. Smith, Messr. MacConnell, and Mme Denno. Messrs. Nelms and Fultz were not present. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Simmons, Melzer, Kazin, Watson, Cohen and Roshani Hardin (Law Dept.). Messrs. Thomas, Pacella, Lurix, Williams, Carlisle, Jones and Schwind. President KZ Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – None at this meeting

MINUTES

Ms. Denno motioned the minutes of the July 19th, 2011 regular meeting of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission be approved. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None at this meeting

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Draft of Power Point Presentation and Service Report

Mr. Pacella discussed a Power Point presentation and an information binder that was being prepared to present to Cincinnati City Council during the Budget Hearing process. The presentation could also be used at other times

during the year when there is a need to explain the value of Recreation. Mr. Pacella asked that members of the Commission review the presentation and provide feedback at the next Commission meeting.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

McKie Recreation Center Pool Bid

Joe Schwind presented the bid for McKie Recreation Center Pool and recommended approval. Mr. Schwind stated that he met with the community in February and they approved of the plan. Mr. MacConnell asked about the Capital budget for this pool. Mr. Schwind said that the capital funds for this pool have been approved. Steve Pacella stated that McKie pool is one of the more popular pools in the tier program. Mr. MacConnell asked about the stainless steel that would be used for this pool. Mr. Schwind said that stainless is very durable and has become the industry standard. Mr. MacConnell motioned to approve the bids submitted by Finneytown Contracting, Queen City Mechanicals, Inc. and B & J Electric Co. Ms. Denno seconded.

Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Golf Privileges

Mr. MacConnell stated that he felt that the Commission should consider the possibility of eliminating free golf privileges but he felt uncomfortable making a decision at this meeting because Mr. Nelms and Mr. Fultz were not present. Rev. Smith discussed the history of the practice and noted that golf privileges were suspended in 1996-1997 because they wanted to make sure it was an acceptable practice. At this time, Mr. Tony Yates, former President of the Golf

Advisory Council, was asked to address the Commission. Mr. Yates stated that free golf is considered an earned privilege. The Golf Advisory Council commissioned a study and found that earned golf privileges are common practice throughout all of the courses that were surveyed.

Mr. MacConnell stated that some of the golf privileges given were earned and some were not. Rev. Smith said that many of the golf privileges that were given to the City Manager, etc. have been taken away. Rev. Smith noted that Council Member Wendell Young was quoted as saying that free golf privileges remind him of the airline industry giving free flights to its employees. Rev. Smith added that the Consultants say that it's not an unacceptable practice. Mr. MacConnell asked how these privileges might be affecting our revenue. Mr. Yates said that those people who have privileges usually take unused tee times and normally bring friends who pay.

Rev. Smith will meet with the Golf Advisory Council on September 12th to ensure that those with golf privileges have earned them. Mr. Yates stated that members of the Golf Advisory Council must volunteer to receive privileges. Rev. Smith added that the Golf Advisory Council issues reports on the courses they have played.

Mr. MacConnell asked if we have records on what the Golf Advisory Council does. Rob Williams stated that he does and he will provide them to Mr. MacConnell. Steve Pacella said that the program was designed around availability so as not to interfere with revenue. They are not playing at peak time. Mr. MacConnell asked if Recreation owns Avon Field. Mr. Pacella answered that CRC runs Avon Field on behalf of the Park Board. Mr. MacConnell noted that

Lifetime Passes were given to individuals who've made major contributions to golf. Rev. Smith added that some lifetime passes were given as recognition – as a thank you – and not necessarily to people who play.

Mr. MacConnell said that he would like to see a report about who is playing. Jill Timon of Billy Casper Golf noted that free golf privileges are common practice nationally. Mr. Yates added that as a member of the Golf Advisory Council he has only played 4 times this year. Rev. Smith stated that the criteria are that golf privileges are earned for exceptional service to Recreation.

Mr. MacConnell motioned that this discussion be tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Denno seconded.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS – nothing at this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Paul Macke

Mr. Paul Macke was present and asked to address the Commission. Mr. Macke was acknowledged and permitted to speak.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rev. Smith stated at this time that the Commission should go into Executive Session in order to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. MacConnell motioned that the Recreation Commission go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Ms. Denno seconded.

Roll Call: Rev. Smith – yes; Mr. MacConnell – yes; Ms. Denno – yes

Motion passed. The Recreation Commission went into Executive Session at 4:40 pm.

At 4:50 pm Rev. Smith motioned that the Recreation Commission come out of Executive Session.

Motion passed.

At this time Ms. Denno stated that she chaired a small committee that engaged in the process of finding a new Director for the Recreation Dept. They interviewed three people for the position – Gerald Checco, Michael Thomas and Chris Bigham. The Committee has recommended Chris Bigham. Ms. Denno motioned that the Recreation Commission extend an offer to Chris Bigham to be the new Director of Recreation. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Ms. Denno said that they would present a written offer to Chris Bigham.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 16th at 4:00 pm at the Main Office of the Public Recreation Commission, 805 Central Ave., Suite 800, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Meeting adjourned by President KZ Smith at 4:55 pm.

Kazava Smith, President

Michael Thomas, Interim Director