# THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Glenview Golf Course, 10965 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH (46) with the following Commissioners present: Mme. Denno and Messrs. MacConnell, Budig, and Smith. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Arszman, Watson, Finnell, Simmons and Messrs. Bigham, Jones, Pacella, Williams, Gerth, Carlisle and Thomas.

President Denno called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - Golf Division

Rob Williams introduced Joe Livingood, Senior Vice President of Operations and members of the Billy Casper Golf team. Mr. Livingood noted that Glenview Golf Course was the Flagship course in the division. The presentation that was going to be given is a yearend review and gives a look at how we do business. Nick Bednar, Regional Manager of Billy Casper Golf, stated that 2012 was a "bounce back" year. There were solid increases. He gave the financial results. Jill Timon, Marketing Director, discussed the Marketing plan that included youth outreach, accessible golf and the golf ball drop for kids. Paul Holzderber, General Manager, discussed the Audubon International Sanctuary and the World's Largest Golf Outing for the Wounded Warrior project. They also collected 200 toys for the Holiday Toy Drive. He added that 2013's theme was "In It to Win It".

Ms. Timon discussed outings and strategic pricing initiatives. They want to target senior golfers and use the Birdee Pass and "Grow the Game" initiatives.

Rev. Smith stated that Billy Casper Golf does a wonderful job. He added that he thought it was great that they increased rounds even though they closed one of the golf courses. He asked about the ages of the kids who play? Ms. Timon answered that they are 17 and under and that they play for free with a

paying adult. Rev. Smith asked if there was a Birdee Pass and a Senior Pass. Ms. Timon answered that there are two versions of the Birdee Pass. Rev. Smith asked about night golf. Ms. Timon answered that they maxed out one week with 32 players and added that the more you offer, the more they will play. She feels that there is a good opportunity for this year. Rev. Smith mentioned that the matts at Reeves were much better. Mr. Holzderber added that they will be replacing the matts at all of the courses.

Mr. Budig gave his compliments on the review. Mr. Bigham thanked Billy Casper Golf for focusing on youth and teens. Mr. Budig moved that the 2013 Billy Casper Golf Annual Plan be approved. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. Presentation submitted for filing.

## **MINUTES**

Mr. MacConnell moved that the minutes of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's regular meeting for February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 be approved. Motion seconded by Rev. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### Public Feedback on Oakley Recreation Center

Chris Bigham said that they went to the public for feedback. There is an online survey, where people can go to give their input on the renovations for the Oakley Recreation Center. Mr. Budig asked if this was in the budget for 2014. Mr. Bigham answered that they will be using 2014-2015 funds. This is Phase I. There are 5 options depending on how much money can be raised. Mr. Budig asked if it was \$5.5 million. Mr. Bigham answered that yes for 2015 unless there are reductions.

## Special Events – Spring

Mr. Bigham highlighted upcoming events for spring. He mentioned that one of the events is a special screening of the movie "42", which is a biographical story of Jackie Robinson. CRC will get 150 tickets for the screening. It's a partnership with the Rusty Bucket. The movie is rated "PG13" for historically correct but offensive racial language. He also mentioned the "Big Dip", which will be the celebration of the opening of two new pools at McKie and Pleasant Ridge and the Young Professionals Corn Hole Tournament at Lunken.

# Cincinnati Herald Article - Summer Day Camp

Mr. Bigham distributed an article that appeared in the Cincinnati Herald regarding CRC's Summer Day Camp. There are 1,000 kids registered for this year's camps.

#### Evanston Recreation Center Update

Mr. Bigham distributed an article that appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer which mentioned the Evanston Recreation Center in a story about how the neighborhood is improving.

#### Budget 2014 Update

Mr. Bigham stated that there wouldn't be an update on the Budget since the Parking issue hasn't been resolved. If the parking issue is put on the ballot, the cuts could be quite large – possibly 10%.

#### Year End Financial Report

Cheryl Watson went over the year end financial report. Report submitted for filing. Mr. Budig asked if the final appropriation comes out of the 050 fund. Ms. Watson answered yes. Mr. Budig complimented Ms. Watson on her good work. Mr. Bigham stated that all fees are put into the 323 fund and that once it rises to a certain level they have the option to request a transfer out of that fund to cover a shortfall somewhere else. He added that the last time they had a

significant amount in the 323 fund, they purchased vans. He said that they like to keep it at a 1.5-1.6 level.

# Top Ten Playgrounds

Mr. Bigham discussed a contest on Hulafrog (an eastside Cincinnati website) that showed the Land of Make Believe playground at Lunken and the 1,000 Hands playground at Pleasant Ridge as two of the Top Ten playgrounds on the east side. He added that two of our 1,000 hands playgrounds will be rebuilt over the last week of April, first week of May – Dunham and Pleasant Ridge. They will use volunteers for a 3 day build.

#### COA – Lynn Melzer

Mr. Bigham announced that Lynn Melzer, recently retired Senior Services Coordinator, was awarded the Outstanding Professional of the Year from the Council on Aging. It was a great honor and Mr. Bigham added that she will be missed.

#### Aquatics Calendar

Mr. Bigham said that he covered this announcement previously during the meeting.

#### Executive Scoreboard Update

Mr. Bigham announced that because of the reduction of membership prices from \$10 to \$2 for youth and teens, memberships are up 79% - 975 memberships in 2012, 1,749 memberships so far in 2013.

They are in the process of fundraising for the LeBlond project. The Marvin Lewis Foundations has confirmed that the Hometown Huddle will take place at LeBlond during the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in October. The Reds have signed on to redo the fields at LeBlond. The goal is to have Phase 1 completed in October.

Steve Gerth discussed an event at the University of Cincinnati. They took 60 kids, ages 10-14 to the track at UC for a practice track meet. There were 5

universities there for the event and the kids were really impressed and motivated for their big meet in May. Ms. Denno said that this demonstrates to the kids a path to higher education. Mr. Bigham said that it was a great event and partnerships are the key.

## Mayor's Job Fair

Mike Thomas said that this is the 8<sup>th</sup> year for the Mayor's Job Fair. There are 100's-1,000's more kids than jobs. There are measurements in place. Council Member Simpson is a strong advocate for this program. Doris Simmons stated that the applicants must meet eligibility requirements, live within the city limits and meet income guidelines. They must go on line to apply – either from home, the library or at our main office. They can only do the program once. CRC had a booth at the job fair. They received 500 applications. They have 90 positions.

Mr. Budig asked if there were standards. Mr. Thomas said that they do a police background check, they must live in the city and meet a certain income level. They will be paired with an adult mentor. The kids have guidelines. Adults do a pre and post test for the kids. They have had success with kids going on to secondary education. Rev. Smith asked if lifeguards were part of the program. Mr. Thomas said no. They are really two different programs. He added that their purpose is to get kids off the street.

#### Retirement

Doris Simmons announced that Jerry Sutton, Turf Manager with Outdoor Maintenance is retiring. He started working for CRC in 1983 as a greens keeper. He said that he "enjoyed working for CRC and he tried to do a good job."

#### PLANNING & ENGINEERING

#### Capital Projects Update

Dan Jones gave an update on capital projects. Report received for filing. Some highlights included:

- Pleasant Ridge Pool is on schedule to open May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Close to bid LeBlond Parking Lot, Price Hill, Clifton Recreation Center,
   Roselawn and Queensgate Recreation Area.

Mr. Budig complimented Mr. Jones on his work.

## Cincinnati Floor Company

Mr. Budig moved that the term contract with Cincinnati Floor Company for renovation of athletic hardwood flooring be approved. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

# Lang Recreation Area Parking Lot Renovation

Rev. Smith moved that the bid for the Lang Recreation Area Park Lot Renovation be awarded to J.K. Meurer Corp. for \$17,890.00. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS - None at this meeting.

# **NEW BUSINESS**

## Jason Barney Contract Renewal

Steve Pacella explained that this Second Amendment to Agreement is a renewal of an existing agreement for property located at 2944 Humbert Street. The original agreement outlines terms and conditions for caretaker, boat launching and security services provided by Mr. Barney at the Schmidt Boat Ramp in exchange for lease of the caretaker residence.

Mr. Budig moved to approve the Jason Barney Contract Renewal. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

## Francis Emsicke Contract Renewal

Steve Pacella explained that this Second Amendment to Agreement is a renewal of an existing agreement for property located at 3591 Roll Avenue. The original agreement outlines terms and conditions for caretaker and security services provided by Mr. Emsicke at Hille Ball Field in exchange for lease of the caretaker residence.

Mr. MacConnell moved to approve the Francis Emsicke Contract Renewal. Mr. Budig seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### Hille Ball Field Sale

Chris Bigham introduced Gerald Fortson from Economic Development who discussed the proposed sale of Hille Ball Field. The Planning Commission has approved the sale. CRC will get \$130,000 for the field. City Council still needs to approve the sale. Truckway Leasing is only purchasing the ball field. Mr. Bigham added that we will get \$130,000 for the field and \$170,000 from Economic Development to reinvest in Wayne playground. In 2014-2015 we will receive \$272,000 to re-do the ball field at Wayne. Mr. Fortson pointed out on the furnished drawings that north of the stream would be developed by CRC and south of the stream would be development. Drawings received for filing.

Mr. MacConnell moved to approve the sale of Hille Ball Field. Mr. Budig seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

# <u>Liquor License – Lindner Tennis Facility</u>

Steve Pacella explained that the administration is seeking to transfer the liquor licenses from the recently closed Dunham Golf Course at 1951 Dunham Way to the Carl and Edyth Lindner Family Tennis Center located at 4750 Playfield Lane.

Staff believes the ability to serve alcohol at the tennis facility will benefit customers and the City in several aspects. We have had many requests from the public to have alcohol available. The property has two covered picnic shelters that are in high rental demand during the summer months. The added benefit of controlled alcohol sales would be perceived as beneficial to some renters. When tennis tournaments or large events are taking place, customers are walking across this busy parking lot to the golf clubhouse to make alcohol purchases while cars are coming and going. This situation has presented safety concerns.

Mr. Budig asked if the state has any problem with it. Mr. Pacella answered that they are working with the state. Ms. Denno asked if golf already has a liquor license. Mr. Pacella answered yes. Ms. Denno added if the hope was to have it for the picnic shelters. Mr. Pacella answered yes...hopefully for shelter rentals. It would be a D1 license which would be for beer only.

Mr. MacConnell moved to approve the Liquor License for the Lunken Tennis Facility. Mr. Budig seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### Hartwell Land Transfer

Mr. Bigham stated that we want to pave the parking lot and put in a football field at Hartwell. It would add approximately \$5,000 of operating costs per year.

Mr. Budig moved that the Hartwell land transfer be approved. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

# **NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the CRC Main Office, 805 Central Ave., Suite 800, Cincinnati, OH (02).

Mr. Budig moved that the Meeting of the Public Recreation Commission be adjourned. Motion seconded by Mr. MacConnell.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned by President Denno at 4:30 p.m.

Dawn Denno, Presiden
Christopher Bigham, Director

/ba

Minutes prepared by Bunny Arszman