

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

October 16th, 2012

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on October 16th, 2012 at the Mt. Washington Recreation Center, 1715 Beacon St., Cincinnati, OH (30) with the following Commissioners present: Mme. Denno and Messrs. MacConnell, and Smith. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Lanser, Finnell, Arszman, Watson, Simmons, and Messrs. Bigham, Carlisle, Jones, Pacella, Thomas, Heyl, and Gerth.

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

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Kim Lanser from Youth & Family Services gave a Power Point presentation about the Summer Youth Employment program. It was submitted for filing. Mr. MacConnell asked how they decide who to interview. Ms. Lanser stated that the applications are time stamped. Those who meet the qualifications are interviewed on a first come, first served basis. Mr. MacConnell asked how they determine who to hire. Ms. Lanser answered that there are a panel of people who decide. Sometimes they look for youth who really need the job skills and not necessarily youth who already have the skills and should be able to find any job easily. Ms. Denno asked if we track results and how do we stack up to other programs. Mr. Thomas said that they have tracked participants in the past and have seen results which demonstrated that these youth tend to stay in school longer and go on to secondary education. He will have some information for the Commission at the November meeting.

Rev. Smith asked if our REC Employment Corps program was part of a larger Community Action and Urban League program. Mr. Thomas answered that Council Member Yvette Simpson is a strong proponent of Youth Employment and she is hoping to make the program year round instead of just in

the summer. Rev. Smith added that it's also part of Mayor Mallory's job program. CRC gets part of the money. 90 youth are not enough.

Ms. Denno stated that she went to the graduation and people just loved the program. Council Member Simpson was at the graduation. Mr. Bigham added that the Youth and Family Services division did a great job. Council Member Simpson loves the program. She wants to expand it. Council Member Young is also very positive about the program. They are focused on the impact for Recreation.

MINUTES

Rev. Smith moved that the minutes of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's regular meeting for September 18th, 2012 be approved. Motion seconded by Mr. MacConnell.

Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carolyn Yvonne McNear – Senior Hall of Fame Thank You

Mr. Bigham discussed a complimentary letter that was received from an inductee to the Senior Hall of Fame.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Awards

Mr. Bigham displayed recent awards received by CRC Staff. Mandy Bello received the National Amateur Baseball Award and Kristen Clatos & Allison Bass received the Faces of Autism Award. Mr. Bigham added that this was very exciting for our staff, especially for Mandy Bello since this was her first year in the Athletics' Division.

Special Events – September and October

Mr. Bigham announced upcoming events in October and November. He added that they were still trying to come up with a date for the dedication of the

Roscoe Fultz Memorial. He said that he would come up with a few tentative dates and send out an email to the Commission once they've spoken with the family.

Mr. Bigham also noted that the tentative date for the grand re-opening of the McKie Recreation Center will be Thursday, November 29th at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Bigham also highlighted the 7 Hills Run. Ms. Denno asked how many people normally participate. Doug Carlisle answered that the course is 12.4 excruciating miles and they normally have approximately 100 participants.

Kaboom Playground – Camp Washington

Steve Gerth explained that KaBoom awarded a grant to CRC to build a replacement playground at the Camp Washington Recreation Center. Humana will have about 100 volunteers to build the playground on November 10th.

Ms. Denno asked if they are sure that it was arson that destroyed the original playground. Mr. Gerth said that the aluminum had melted from the fire being so hot. Mr. Bigham thanked Mr. Gerth for his work on the project and explained that it was more work than had been anticipated.

Upcoming Retirements

Doris Simmons announced that two Recreation employees will be retiring effective November 1st. One is Gerald Toole, Jr. and the other is Don Juenger.

Hille Ballfield

Chris Bigham introduced Gerald Fortson from the Division of Economic Development who gave some background to the situation. Truckway Leasing, Inc. of South Cumminsville wants to expand their business which would mean the closure of Hille Ballfield. The expansion would add 25-30 jobs to the area. We are hoping to work out a deal to build a new field at Hartwell Armory to replace Hille Ballfield.

Mr. Bigham explained a drawing that is on file. Many of the homes that are located in the area have been purchased by Truckway or the city. Wayne Recreation area is the main location for recreation. If we could relocate to Hartwell, we could move teams there. The Armory itself is no longer there. Mr. Bigham added that there are two options to consider – one would be to change the “B” Field to an “A” Field and add a “D” field. The other would be to move the “A” field to the Armory. He said that if there were any questions about this they could email him.

Ms. Denno asked if there are 3 fields at Hartwell. Would we be expanding? Mr. Bigham answered that we would basically be taking the existing ball field at Hille and moving it to Hartwell. If they move, they would be losing the lights because there are no lights at Hartwell. They would also need help moving the scoreboard. Ms. Denno asked who actually owns the land. Mr. Fortson answered that Economic Development owns the land at Hartwell.

Mr. Bigham added that when the Armory closed, the property was transferred to the city. It's vacant land waiting for an opportunity. Mr. Bigham also stated the baseball field at Hille is currently named for a fallen police officer, but they would recommend renaming a field at Wayne Recreation Area after him. The house where Frances Emsicke is living will not be part of the deal. Mr. MacConnell asked if the Law Department was involved. Mr. Bigham answered that the Law Department isn't involved yet, but as the deal gets closer they will become involved.

Mr. Fortson stated that he will meet with the people in South Cumminsville to let them know. Ms. Denno stated that the community needs to be updated. Mr. MacConnell stated that it makes sense to him and they should meet with the Community Council. Mr. Bigham said that if there are any other questions to please let him know. Currently this agenda item was for information only and no action was taken.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Capital Projects Update

Mr. Dan Jones highlighted the following items from the Capital Project Report:

- McKie filled the pool. Everything worked so it is ready to go.
- McKie Recreation Center is scheduled to be completed by November 9th.
- Putting concrete around the Mt. Auburn Pool. Should be operational by November 11th.
- Pleasant Ridge – the new pool is being constructed.
- Clifton Recreation Center – they are working on the design.
- Price Hill Recreation Center – the design is still in progress.

A copy of the full report was submitted for filing.

Sale of Property – Little Miami River Access

Dan Jones explained that the Hamilton County Park District would like to expand their Shared use trail along the Little Miami Scenic Trail from Clough Pike to S.R. 32 Beechmont Ave. Interchange Ramp. The trail would be installed on city owned property. Currently DOTE owns the Little Miami Access Recreation Area and CRC maintains it. The site is not programmed or permitted by CRC, but does require maintenance. DOTE has agreed to sell the property. We recommend selling the property to HCPD and turning over control to them as well. The parcels include 500-440-004 (DOTE owned) and the CRC portion of 500-430-138 (shown on G13-7-26). The CRC portion of owned property serves no useful recreational purpose. The HCPD would be responsible for all surveying, platting, and recording of the property transfer. The sale price would be \$1. The proceeds will be deposited to Fund 751, "Recreation Permanent Improvements Funds." A detailed map was submitted for filing.

Mr. MacConnell moved that Commission approve the sale of the property as described by staff. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Caldwell Parking Lot Bid Approval

Dan Jones presented the bids for the renovation of parking lot at Caldwell which will include drainage corrections, base repair, paving, add curb and lining. Mr. MacConnell asked if CRC had worked with Westside Paving previously. Mr. Jones answered that they have worked together many times. Mr. MacConnell moved that Commission approve the bid of Westside Paving and Excavating, Inc. for the renovation of Caldwell parking lot. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS - None at this meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Fees & Charges - Rentals

Mike Thomas requested authorization to add a Rental Fee for Parking Lots and outdoor areas that are otherwise not covered under center and/or athletic fees and charges: \$75.00 / hour subject to the approval of the CRC Special Uses/Events Application. Ms. Denno asked if we have the right to turn people down. Mr. Thomas answered that as long as political candidates rent the facility, they won't be turned down. Rev. Smith moved to approve the addition of a parking lot rental fee to our fees and charges. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

2013 Budget

Chris Bigham said that he met with the City Manager. There is a \$34 million dollar shortfall in the budget. We have been asked to complete an exercise that would show an 8% reduction to the base budget target. Our priority is not to close any centers or pools. We have given the City Manager a short list

that isn't close to 8%, but we can't go any further without pain. We are working on Part 2, but will not add to the list unless we have to.

Mr. MacConnell asked about the Real estate property tax. Mr. Bigham answered that we should know at the end of 2013. Mr. Bigham added the City Manager's budget release date will be around the Monday after Thanksgiving. Mr. MacConnell stated that this is our first proposal and it could possibly be amended later. Mr. Bigham added that they've done a good job of reducing the negative impact. Ms. Denno stated that things move very quickly and they want to be ready. Mr. Bigham added that all nine council members understand our value to the city. We will be pro-active. Having as many assets as we do is great. Mr. MacConnell moved that the 2013 Budget be adopted as recommended by staff. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 20th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at Westwood Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio (11).

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

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

Dawn Denno, President

Christopher Bigham, Director

/ba

Minutes prepared by Bunny Arszman