THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

August 21, 2012

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 21st, 2012 at the LeBlond Recreation Center, 2335 Riverside Dr., Cincinnati, OH (02) with the following Commissioners present: Messrs. Smith, MacConnell, and Mme. Denno. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Kazin, Stuart, McNiel, Simmons, Arszman, Finnell, Cloud-Heyob and Messrs. Carlisle, Lurix, Ayers, Pacella, Bigham, Thomas, Williams and Jones. President Denno called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Therapeutic Recreation Division

Alayne Kazin introduced Alan Hartley who is an Iraqi war veteran, Apache Helicopter pilot with the 101st Airborne Unit. Mr. MacConnell thanked him for his service. Mr. Hartley was wounded in the war and is now confined to a wheelchair. Mr. Hartley discussed the difficulty of getting back into the world after suffering such a devastating injury. He had never used a hand cycle before but after being persuaded by Adam Ayers, he has now logged 106.1 miles using a CRC bike. He is now able to ride with his wife and son for the first time. He appreciates being able to do something physical with his family now. The Veterans Administration will now purchase a bike for him because of the time that he has logged.

Ms. Denno asked how many veterans the Therapeutic Division serves. Ms. Kazin asked Adam Ayers to respond. Mr. Ayers stated that they started with

14 veterans 2 years ago. They now work one on one with 20-25 veterans. They are continuing to build the program. Ann-Marie Stuart said that the first year it operated as an Olympic Opportunity Club with wheelchair basketball, wheelchair football and hand cycling. That program now has 35-40 veterans.

Ms. Kazin handed out the Therapeutic Recreation program guide and gave a Power Point Presentation about their scope of services. She also presented a Master Plan for the LeBlond Recreation Center. Mr. Bigham said that they started talking about the plan in January, shortly after the TR Division moved to LeBlond from the main office. Ms. Kazin said that this is both a private and public partnership and would have a significant impact on the community. She also noted that this would not be a Therapeutic Recreation Center. It would be inclusive. It's about time with family. They've worked with partners.

Mr. Bigham said that they would break the project into phases. Phase One is the outside piece. The state has indentified funds for a bike path in 2014. They are trying to move that up to 2013. It's a long term plan for the city. Right now we are focusing on the playground and sports court. The ultimate goal is to have construction underway in 2014. They've always wanted the Reds and Bengals working on the same site. Mr. Bigham added that a lot of folks are excited about the project and he feels that the impact for the community will be great. He thanked the staff for doing such a great job.

Mr. MacConnell asked what the building was that was next to the site. Mr. Bigham answered that it was a school that was being demolished. However, the land is too expensive to purchase.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Denno stated that she would move the approval of the Minutes to later in the meeting since Rev. Smith was running late.

CORRESPONDENCE

Rachel Petri's Miracle League Letter

Mr. Bigham discussed a complimentary letter that was received from a parent of a participant in CRC's Miracle League.

Bradlee Watson Family Thank You – RiverTrek

Mr. Bigham presented a thank you note from the Bradlee Watson's family thanking CRC for such a great program like RiverTrek. Mr. Bigham also showed Commission a few photos from RiverTrek. Ms. Denno asked if the kids were just from CRC recreation centers or are they from outside. Lois Finnell answered that RiverTrek accepts both kids from the centers and also outside of the centers. The information is posted on our website and anyone can participate.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Madisonville Fresh Courts

Mr. Bigham discussed the USTA Fresh Courts renovation of the tennis courts at the Madisonville Recreation Center. There was a special event marking the opening of the courts. Sloane Stephens, a tennis pro playing in the Western Southern Open, played a little tennis with some kids from the National Junior Tennis League. They also honored Karen Montavon with a Leadership Award. Ms. Montavon is a retired employee of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, where she was the Tennis Director for 19 years.

Special Events – July & August

Mr. Bigham discussed upcoming events in August and September, highlighting the "Pull the Plug" event at the Pleasant Ridge pool on August 23rd. He also noted the All-Staff Meeting at Lunken on September 13th.

Mayerson Foundation Splish Splash

Mr. Bigham talked about the media coverage CRC received from the Mayerson Foundation's Splish Splash event at the Lincoln Recreation Center. He added that it was a very positive event with many partners. The Mayerson Foundation felt that CRC was most accommodating.

Senior Line Dancing at Dunham

Mr. Bigham showed the Commission photos that appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer's Hometown section of the Senior's line dancing class at Dunham. He added that Dunham has a great group of Seniors.

Lincoln Press Conference with Stan Chesley

Mr. Bigham discussed a press conference that was held at Lincoln pool to announce the $25,000 that Stan Chesley raised to keep several pools open an extra week. The Cincinnati Recreation Foundation matched the $25,000. Mayor Mallory was in attendance and most of the media covered the story so it was very positive for CRC.

Summer Day Camp Wrap Up

Mr. Bigham discussed the attendance for CRC's Summer Day Camps. There were 822 kids in attendance with 64 of them being one on one inclusion. There were field trips every week. Ms. Denno asked why the attendance was down compared to previous years. Lois Finnell stated that some folks don't register until later in the summer so these numbers may not be final. Also, there

were some who couldn't afford the fee increase. Staff changes also affected some of the attendance figures. Mr. Bigham added that CPS went to a 5th quarter which affected the numbers. Ms. Denno asked if the pools are still open when school is open. Mr. Bigham answered that we try to strategically keep the right number of pools open and close before school begins.

Youth Recognition Ceremony

Mr. Bigham described the special event at the Madisonville Recreation Center, where CRC recognized approximately 80 youth who worked for Recreation this past summer. Council Members Yvette Simpson and Wendell Young spoke to the youth. It was a wonderful event.

Mr. Bigham added that this has been a great first summer for him. It was very successful and he can't thank staff enough for all of their hard work.

PLANNING & ENGINEERING

Capital Projects Update

Dan Jones presented his Capital Projects Update. He said that the roof work and the elevator had been installed at McKie. The sprayground has been installed and they will fill the pool at the end of September. It is scheduled to open in October. Mt. Auburn pool is scheduled to reopen in October. The parking lot at Kellog is complete. He will have a plan for the Price Hill Recreation Center next month.

At this point Rev. Smith arrived at the meeting, officially making it a quorum.

Bramble Parking Lot Renovation

Dan Jones explained that Westside Paving & Excavating, Inc. was the lowest bid for the Bramble Parking Lot Renovation and that the bid results had been approved by the SBE office.

Mr. MacConnell moved that Commission approve the bid of Westside Paving & Excavating, Inc. for the Bramble Parking Lot Renovation as presented. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – None at this meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Hirsch Ground Lease

Mr. Pacella explained that CPS owns approximately 5.81 acres located at 3632 Reading Road. The City (Recreation) owns property adjacent to the CPS property which includes the Hirsch Recreation Center. By prior agreement between CPS and the City, CRC has managed, controlled, operated and maintained a portion of the CPS property which includes a parking lot, playground, and two baseball fields, which CRC operates as part of the recreational facilities offered by the Hirsch Recreation Center. CPS and the City desire that CRC continue to manage, control, operate and maintain the Leased Premises for recreational activities under this Lease.

Mr. Pacella also explained that CRC and CPS have been meeting for the past 6 months to come up with a joint use agreement. They are trying to get a

template in place to use for these types of agreements. Mike Burson, Cincinnati Public Schools, explained that CRC has ball fields, playgrounds and parking lots on school property. Mr. MacConnell stated that this is essentially cleaning up a relationship that already exists. Mr. Burson added that changes in Estate Law necessitates that there be a formalized agreement. It is important the CRC is protected. The Cincinnati Public School Board has already approved the lease.

Mr. MacConnell moved that Commission approve the Hirsch Ground Lease as presented. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

McKie Lease

Mr. Pacella explained that CPS owns approximately 8.66 acres of property at 4151 Turill Street in the Northside community of Cincinnati. CPS uses the southern portion of the Property for the operation of Chase School.

The City operates and owns the McKie Recreation Center which is located on the northern portion of the Property. The construction and operation of the Recreation Center on the property was authorized by a prior agreement between CPS and the City, which has lapsed. CPS and the City acknowledge and agree that the Recreation Center has never been used for school operations by CPS.

The City desires to continue to operate the Recreation Center under this Lease, and CPS desires to lease the ground beneath the Center and the surrounding ground located within the proposed lease line. In addition, CPS desires to lease to the City in conjunction with the Ground Lease Premises, the parking lot and the location of the electrical transformer.

Mr. MacConnell asked who would be responsible in Liability issues. Mr. Bigham answered that if someone was hurt on the land, CRC would be responsible. Mr. Burson added that by June of next year there are other areas that need to have official agreements. Mr. Bigham added that we share land and facilities. Over the past 40 plus years these agreements have been done with a handshake. They have a very long list of agreements that need to be settled. These are very important. Ms. Denno stated that the Commission is happy that these agreements have been prioritized.

Mr. MacConnell moved that the lease for the McKie Recreation Center be approved as presented. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Krueck Sale Agreement

Steve Pacella explained that CPS owns the property at 2515 Clifton Avenue known as Hughes Campus. CPS and Recreation jointly participated in construction of an addition in 1971 that included a swimming pool and gym. CPS and CRC closed the building in 2007 in connection with CPS's renovation of the school building.

During the renovation CPS performed some initial asbestos remediation and clean-up work in a portion of the Recreation Center. In addition, CPS's contractors determined that the pool area which was included in the area under the common management and control of CRC and CPS required extensive asbestos remediation, at an estimated cost of $750,000, in order for the pool area to be restored for public use. Because neither CRC or CPS had sufficient

funding to perform the asbestos remediation within the pool area and except for the initial asbestos remediation and clean-up work performed by CPS, the Recreation Center was not renovated and did not reopen when the School Building renovation was completed in August 2010 and has remained vacant ever since.

The fair market value of the City's interest in the Recreation Center, as determined by the City of Cincinnati Real Estate Services Division based upon the valuation of the Hamilton County Auditor and considering the presence of asbestos in the Recreation Center, is $1.00.

CRC has determined that the Recreation Center is no longer needed for recreational purposes, that CRC lacks sufficient resources to remediate the asbestos in the pool area and perform other renovations in order to restore the Recreation Center for public use, and that the facility is deteriorating due to lack of upkeep, and, therefore, the City desires to avoid further liability associated with the Rec Center by transferring all of its right, title, and interest in the Recreation Center to CPS.

Mr. MacConnell asked if the CPS board has approved the sale. Mike Burson stated that they haven't yet but they will. Mr. MacConnell moved that the sale of Krueck be approved as presented. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

At this time, Ms. Denno went back to beginning of the agenda and requested a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Mr.

MacConnell moved that the minutes of the Commission meeting held on July 10th be approved. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Denno then resumed with the next item on the agenda.

ODNR Boating & Safety Grant

Mr. Pacella explained that Recreation has requested an Ordinance from the City administration to apply for, accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of $10,000 from the Ohio Department of Natural Recourses (ODNR) 2013 Boating Safety Education Grant. The funds will be used to support CRC's Kids in Kayaks, RiverTrek and the Amazing PFD Race programs. These programs are designed to promote leadership, personal accomplishment, and nature awareness.

Ms. Denno asked why there would need to be an ordinance. Mr. Bigham explained that the City doesn't want us to apply for things where they are on the hook for matching funds. Mr. MacConnell moved that Commission approve the application, acceptance and appropriation of the 2013 ODNR Boating Safety Education Grant. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Comp Time Policy Revision

Mr. Pacella explained that the purpose of this change is to allow the CRC staff the flexibility to complete duties that are urgent and or unexpected. This will also allow staff the opportunity to use vacation or compensatory time when time off is requested.

Rev. Smith asked what the rationale was for this change. Mr. Pacella answered that it gave more flexibility back to the employee. He added that going into the busy season they were able to control more of the comp time. Mr. Bigham stated that it allows them to micro manage the issue.

Mr. MacConnell moved that Commission approve the revised Comp Time Policy as presented. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

CRC Rule 10 Change

Mr. Pacella explained that as a result of legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly regarding gun carry laws that limited local governments' ability to regulate guns in some regards, a number of cities were involved in litigation that challenged the constitutionality of Ohio's gun legislation. The Ohio Supreme Court has upheld the Ohio legislation, so local governments generally cannot prohibit a properly licensed individual from carrying a gun. Therefore, CRC Rule 10 must be amended to be consistent with Ohio law.

Rev. Smith asked if there are some places in the State where carrying a gun is restricted. Mr. Bigham answered that he believes that there are still restrictions where alcohol is served.

Mr. MacConnell moved that Commission approve the Rule 10 Change as presented. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Land Purchase near Boldface

Mr. Pacella said that Recreation was approached by the owner of CWR Investments for possible land donation near Boldface Recreation Area. This is

the second two-parcel acquisition from CWR Investments. Recreation has agreed to purchase the land at $250.00 per parcel totaling $500.00. The two parcels are continuous to the first two parcels acquired from CWR Investments and within CRC's Boldface Recreation Area. Recreation has an approved fund for land purchases – Fund 751 Permanent Improvement Fund.

Mr. MacConnell asked if there was a contract to approve. Mr. Pacella answered that it would be a deed. Mr. Bigham added that the city will buy it and recreation will control it. Rev. Smith requested a description of the land. Mr. Pacella answered that it is a wooded area. Mr. Bigham added that purchasing the land gives us some options for the area. Rev. Smith asked about the maintenance of the land. Dan Jones explained that it is mostly a hillside with trees and would require little maintenance.

Rev. Smith moved that Recreation approve the purchase of land near Boldface. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 18th at 3:00pm at Sayler Park Recreation Center, 6720 Home City Ave., Cincinnati (33).

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned by President Dawn Denno at 4:20 pm.

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Dawn Denno, President

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Christopher Bigham, Director

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Minutes prepared by Bunny Arszman