

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

January 15th, 2013

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on January 15th, 2013 at the McKie Recreation Center, 1655 Chase Ave., Cincinnati, OH (23) with the following Commissioners present: Mme. Denno and Messrs. MacConnell, Budig, Nelms and Smith. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Arszman, Durham, Finnell, Smith and Messrs. Bigham, Jones, Pacella, and Thomas. Ms. Roshani Hardin from the Law Department was also in attendance.

President Denno called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Kristen Smith and April Durham gave a presentation about the newly renovated McKie Recreation Center. Mr. Budig asked how many people they serve in a day. Ms. Durham answered that they generally have between 75-100 in the weight room, 12-20 Seniors, 40-50 Kids and 30-40 Teens per day in the Center. Membership for youth ages 5-17 is \$2.00 per year. Ms. Denno asked about Rec Track. Mr. Bigham explained that RecTrack is a card with a barcode on it that members will swipe to go into programs. It will be able to track information in a better way. Mr. Nelms asked about the timeline for implementing RecTrack at all of the Centers. Mr. Bigham answered that he hopes to have 4 centers up and running by the end of the year. WiFi will eventually be at all of the centers. Ms. Denno stated that the McKie Center looks great and certainly looks different than the last time she was there.

MINUTES

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

Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Annebelle Beemon "Thank You" Email

Mr. Bigham acknowledged a complimentary email that was received from Annebelle Beemon regarding the great service she received from Jincey Yemaya. This item was received for filing.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Community Press Article – Pool Memberships

Chris Bigham discussed an article that appeared in the Community Press regarding the price reduction for Pool Memberships. This article was received for filing.

Special Events – Winter

Mr. Bigham highlighted upcoming events in January and February. He mentioned that January and February tend to be slower months for special events.

Community Press Article

Mr. Bigham discussed an article that appeared in the Community Press about the sign at Mt. Washington Recreation Center. Rev. Smith asked if they would be changing the color of the sign. Mr. Bigham answered that they were keeping the brick but were coordinating efforts to try to make it more visible from the street. This item was received for filing.

Let's Move - Evanston

Mr. Bigham discussed the Let's Move event that happened at the Evanston Recreation Center. The event was coordinated with Council Member P.G. Sittenfeld's office. He also noted a report that listed the television news coverage that the event received. Mr. MacConnell remarked that CRC's marketing department always does a great job of getting out the word. Mr.

Bigham explained how Ms. Arszman and the marketing team coordinate press releases to have the greatest impact.

Boxing – Millvale Recreation Center

Mr. Bigham discussed the boxing event that happened at the Millvale Recreation Center and showed a report of the good television coverage that the event received. Mr. Nelms remarked that Recreation should leverage boxer Adrian Bonner to help with our boxing program.

Enquirer Article – Lifeguard is a Hero

Mr. Bigham discussed an article that appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer about a rescue of two boys who had fallen through the ice in Delhi. One of CRC's lifeguards – Joe Bredestege, 18 – helped to rescue the boys. Mr. Bigham added that our lifeguard program not only provides teens with jobs, but also provides them with life skills. Rev. Smith added that he felt this article was one of the best that he had ever read about Recreation. This article was received for filing.

CPD & CRC Track Program

Mr. Bigham introduced Steve Gerth to have him discuss the new Track Program in which CRC is partnering with the Cincinnati Police Department. Steve Gerth, along with officers Olivia Greer-Brown and Governor R. Williams explained the fundamentals of the program. Twelve (12) kids, ages 10-14 years old, from eight recreation centers will participate in a 13 week running program which will culminate with a Track Meet in early May. The goal is to get the police and the kids to work together with an anti-drug message. They can earn new running shoes through participation. Mr. Nelms asked if there were any standards that the kids needed to meet to be eligible. Officer Greer-Brown said that there are currently no eligibility standards to participate but that just being a part of this program will raise grades. Officer Williams stated that there would be a Code of Conduct. Mr. Budig asked about the structure. Mr. Gerth answered

that they are compiling 13 lesson plans. Recreation full time staff will run the program. Police officers will stop by to help.

Mr. Budig remarked that this seemed to be a very good program. Mr. Bigham added that the police chief was on board and a lot of officers were interested in helping. There are a lot of positive feelings toward this program. Rev. Smith asked if this was part of the Hershey Track meets that Recreation had in the past. Mr. Bigham answered that it's not part of the Hershey Track meet. He added that the Hershey event was inflexible on their dates and it just didn't work with CRC's summer day camp schedule. There could be a possible collaboration in the future.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Capital Projects Update

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

- Pleasant Ridge pool is on schedule.
- Clifton and Price Hill recreation centers are currently in the design phase.

Mr. MacConnell remarked that Mr. Jones's reports are always comprehensive. Mr. Budig asked how many projects are currently in the design phase. Mr. Jones answered that there are 15 projects in the design phase.

A copy of the full report was submitted for filing.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Denno stated that there were two agenda items from the December 18th, 2012 meeting that were tabled until this meeting. Mr. MacConnell moved to bring forward the Golf Advisory Council Bylaws Revision and the Golf Privileges agenda items. Mr. Budig seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Golf Advisory Council – Bylaws Revision

Mr. Bigham summarized the revisions to the Golf Advisory Council bylaws. He stated that it focuses on customer service. The structure of the revision is that for every 2 hours of service, there will be one free round of golf earned with a maximum of 15 rounds earned. Service would include interaction with golf customers by taking surveys, volunteering with youth golf camps or at the driving range. He added that the Golf Advisory Council has not approved of these bylaw revisions.

Ms. Denno said she appreciated the historical documentation that Commission members received on the subject. Mr. MacConnell moved for adoption of the Golf Advisory Council bylaws revision as recommended by Recreation Staff. Mr. Budig seconded.

Rev. Smith asked about the minutes from the August 16th, 2011 meeting. Mr. Bigham read from the approved minutes of 8-16-11:

[Minutes 8-16-11]

“Mr. MacConnell motioned to ask the Golf Advisory Council to look into how free golf privileges are earned for members of the Golf Advisory Council and to report back to the Commission. Ms. Denno seconded.

Mr. MacConnell stated that the Golf Advisory Council should be tracking earned privileges. Rev. Smith said that the Golf Advisory Council reports on the condition and customer service at our golf courses but that they should pay to play until they have earned free golf privileges. Rev. Smith added that they should be keeping attendance records on how often they volunteer. Rev. Smith also feels that the Golf Advisory Board should be reduced to 7 members.

Motion passed.” [End of minutes 8-16-11]

After reading from the minutes from 8-16-11, Mr. Bigham added that the theme is “earn to play”. Rev. Smith asked how this item is on the agenda. Mr. MacConnell stated that he brought it up in October and wanted staff to look at it. The limit of 15 rounds is the maximum number allowed before it becomes a tax issue. Rev. Smith said that he appreciates the history provided in the minutes. He added that years ago all golf privileges were taken away. There was a year and half study after which they determined that there was nothing wrong and golf privileges were reinstated. Rev. Smith asked why is there a push to rule on something before the ethics committee has ruled. Mr. Bigham answered that we want to be proactive. He only found one example of free golf that was close to us. He added that it was his job to clean up any potential issues.

Rev. Smith answered that we should watch the language we use as far as “cleaning up”. It looks like something was wrong. He added that he thinks the timing is wrong. He said that when we looked into privatizing golf, he voted no because he felt we rushed into it. He doesn’t understand why we don’t just wait until there is a ruling. He added that the public isn’t crying out for it. The only person last time was Paul Macke who brought up the tax issue.

At this time Ms. Denno asked for a vote on the motion that was on the table.

Mr. MacConnell, Mr. Nelms and Mr. Budig voted yes. Rev. Smith voted no.

Motion passed.

Golf Privileges – Commission, Park Board & GAC

Mr. MacConnell moved that the Golf Privileges issue be treated as Recreation Staff recommends – that Cincinnati Recreation Commission members receive no privileges, the Golf Advisory Council members earn privileges as stated in their bylaws and the Cincinnati Park Board receives no privileges at Avon Field. Mr. Budig asked why Avon Field. Mr. Bigham answered that Avon Field is owned by the Park Board. Mr. Budig seconded.

Mr. Budig, Mr. MacConnell and Mr. Nelms voted yes. Rev. Smith voted no.

Motion passed.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 19th, 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 3:55 p.m.

Dawn Denno, President

Christopher Bigham, Director

/ba

Minutes prepared by Bunny Arszman