

Reading Recreation Commission  
7:02PM  
Reading School District Boardroom

Minutes of the January 8, 2013 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 7:02PM by James Washington.

The board performed a roll call of members and then the Pledge of the Allegiance. There were ten of ten board members present and they included: Francis Acosta, Carl Geffken, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Eddie Moran, Robert Peters, John Santoro, Otis Smith, Donald Taddei, Jr., Marisol Torres and James Washington. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary). Visitors in attendance: Rebecca Acosta.

**Reorganization**

Ballots for each office were passed out. Nominations were made and the vote followed.

President: James Washington requested nominations for the office of President. Three individuals were nominated. Francis Acosta requested the vote for appointment of James Washington as President. Roll call vote was passed nine to one for James Washington (nay-J.Washington).

Vice President: James Washington requested nomination for the office of Vice President. Four individuals were nominated. James Washington requested the vote for appointment of Eddie Moran as Vice President. Roll call vote was passed six to four for Eddie Moran (nay-E.Moran, R.Peters, J.Santoro, J.Washington).

Secretary: James Washington requested nomination for the office of Secretary. Four individuals were nominated. James Washington requested the vote for appointment of Francis Acosta as Secretary. Roll call vote was passed nine to one for Francis Acosta (nay – F.Acosta).

Treasurer: James Washington requested nomination for the office of Treasurer. Three individuals were nominated. James Washington requested the vote for appointment of Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz as Treasurer. Roll call vote was passed nine to one for Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz (nay-M.Goodman-Hinnershitz).

A picture was taken of the board for the new Reading Recreation Commission website which is in progress.

**Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed. John Santoro made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Francis Acosta. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

**A. Proposed Winter Basketball Program**

Daphne informed the board that the basketball open gym nights will be starting on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be registration forms with waivers & punch cards given to the kids that attend. Matthew Lubas will have a meeting with staff to discuss all the details. Daphne met with the Reading Police Department and advised them of the times when the gyms will be letting out. The police will be checking for Reading School District ID. They must have ID or they will be cited. The kids attending will be instructed to walk home in groups or place phone calls for pick up.

James Washington explained that the basketball open gym is a result of The Olivet's Program no longer having their sports programs. Don Taddei, Jr. and their leagues are still operating in the school. However there is a gap from age 13 – 18 year olds. This is the Reading Recreation's attempt to fill that gap. The estimated cost will be around \$7,000.00. \$2,000.00 was budgeted. The goal is to try to create programs where we are getting kids to participate. Next year the hope is to get the kids to try out for their school sports first and then have other options for them. The goal is to work together. At the conclusion of the program, a "March Madness" Tournament will be held for all kids who attend the program on a regular basis (20+ times). Discussion followed about thinking ahead and talking to Matthew about this for other sports (soccer, baseball, etc.). A suggestion was to work with others: anti-gangs, nutritionists, etc. to partner with the Reading Recreation Commission. This way they would bring some revenue in and get the cost of the program reduced.

Otis asked about board attendance. It was stated that anyone is welcome to come and help. At Southwest the doors will be locked after 20 minutes. At 3<sup>rd</sup> and Spruce you will be able to get in anytime because an employee is always at the front desk.

Heather Boyer and Daphne Klahr are working on a Police and Fire basketball match which would include five places rotating with kids. She is working on this for late spring. The Reading Police Department already has a basketball league. It would be great to get the kids to work with the police. James stated we could extend the invitation to Public Works and have another event open; a bring your staff, family type of event.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Daphne gave a verbal Executive Director's report for January.

#### **Highlights:**

RKL, LLP certified public accountants and consultants (Reinsel Kuntz Leshner) will be performing our audit the last week of January 2013. The auditor will provide a list of items they will need to review.

Daphne is working on our 1<sup>st</sup> year financials for grant applications.

Daphne asked if anyone had any connections to someone in the codes department. She has been pushing for months and nothing is taking place. The center needs a certification of occupancy to become DPW certified. The fire department cannot find anything on file. Marisol Torres stated that she will look into this and see if she can find anything out.

On a personal note: Larry Zerbe mother's passed away. The funeral was on Monday. The tennis program did attend the funeral. Please give him our condolences.

John O'Mara has been working very hard to get the storage room cleared out and ready for the transition into a teen room. Daphne stated that we are looking for an upright piano for this room. She asked for everyone to keep an eye out for a piano that someone would want to donate. She stated that kids would like to do a choir. They went caroling this year at Christmas. There are over 30 kids interested. The teen room is geared toward older kids giving them space to relax. We would like to have a TV, game system, etc. Daphne will send out a list of items needed to the board. She also stated that we have the option of going to Harrisburg at the end of February beginning of March. A lot of things will be going into surplus. We have gone there a few times and got great deals. However, it is a hit or miss kind of place.

John Santoro asked if there will be adequate supervision with the addition of another room. Marisol asked if we will need more staff. Daphne stated that we just hired an additional staff and we have college staff volunteering. The room will not be opened unless the correct ratio of staff-to-kids is present. She stated we might adjust the recreation center hours to keep it open for the older kids but we will have to see how the popularity is.

Eddie Moran asked if we have thought about reaching out to different corporations. Daphne stated that we definitely can but we need to have the financials first. Once the audit is done we can do this. We are hoping to have a preliminary report from the auditors for the February meeting.

Discussion followed regarding naming rights of the room. It was suggested to have the kids complete a contest and vote on the room name.

Daphne informed the board that there was a posting for a budgeted job position, Park and Recreation Liaison. The employee resigned in August and the position was never filled. We are accepting applications till February. This position will start in the summer. It will be a multitasking position that will assist with event transportation, assistance with items for pool, help with front desk, etc. This position can assist Public Works with mowing in the summer. It will be a little bit of everything type of position.

The next upcoming event is the Valentine's Day Dance. This event will be held Friday, February 8, 2013 at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Spruce Recreation Center.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz discussed the Treasurer's Report.

Marcia reviewed the following reports: Balance Sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months November and December; Administration Profit and Loss budget vs. actual; Programs Profit and Loss budget vs. actual; Tennis Profit and Loss budget vs. actual; Pool Profit and Loss budget vs. actual; Income Detail Report and Expense Detail Report.

Daphne thanked the Reading School District and Mr. Peters for their check which was received right after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. The DCNR money is being sent to the city and they will facilitate it to us. It will reflect this year as an overage.

Marcia asked if there were any questions. There being none, John Santoro made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. James Washington seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

B. **Finance** – Carl Geffen stated that the Finance committee did not meet for the month of December. He had nothing to report. Carl spoke about the audit. The finance committee will meet with the auditors. He will press upon them to have a preliminary report for the February meeting.

C. **Personnel** – Eddie Moran stated that the Personnel committee did not meet for the month of the December. He had nothing to report. James Washington stated that the position for a committee member does need to be filled.

D. **Facilities/Programs** – John Santoro stated that the Facilities/Programs committee did not meet for the month of December. He had nothing to report. Daphne stated that she sent a list of grants to Public Works to replace the fountain. Kyle is not opposed to doing that. Cindy DeGroot is pursuing a grant to have that fountain turned into a spray ground. Daphne stated that the city did look into the fountain but the plumbing is a mess and cannot be repaired.

### **New Business**

Marisol Torres stated that she has two items to discuss. She was approached by a gentleman looking for a facility to hold soccer practices. She stated that they are looking to use the gym for one to two hours. The gentleman stated that in the past he used the gym at Tyson-Schoener. There are thirteen kids in this group and then need a place to train to get ready for their league. Marisol stated that she has a letter from the gentleman to give to Daphne. Daphne will get details from Marisol.

Marisol's second item is the boxing club at Baer Park. Daphne stated that she just received a call today from a gentleman named Darnell regarding the boxing club. He has been coaching it for the last two years. This gentleman stated that he was told by the Mayor that the building is now under the control of the Reading Recreation Commission. Daphne spoke to Martiza Loaiza and she is looking for an agreement. Marisol stated that about 40 kids attend this club. At-risk youth attend this club faithfully. She stated that one kid is a golden club champion. They have been coaching these children for the four years. Marisol stated Jenny Marlena works with the food bank and ensures the kids are eating. They are asking how to move forward with the club. Marisol asked if it is the Reading Recreation Commission and, if not the Commission, then where do they go? Discussion regarding the boxing club and facility agreements followed.

Daphne stated that there are agreements all around the city. Francis Acosta stated that we have a window of opportunity to do something with these contracts and the time is now. We need to work together with the Mayor. Discussion followed regarding parks, field houses and concession stands. The Facilities/Programs subcommittee needs to get a list together of locations, what we have access to and pull it together and make a recommendation. This committee is to bring this information back to the board for review.

Daphne stated that she has these agreements and gave them to Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz for review. It will ultimately be a city decision. Marcia suggested discussing situation further with Carole Snyder.

Eddie Moran mentioned closing the gap for our youth. We have not discussed anything for our children with special needs. Daphne stated if we get the DPW funding programs for special needs children would be accessible.

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz spoke about North East Reading and requesting a proposal to look into programming. There is a program with Saint Joseph youth. Daphne mentioned Laura Waller and having their next meeting at Albright on January 26, 2013.

James Washington informed the board that Daphne went to the crime summit planning meeting. He expressed disappointment that Daphne and the Commission were not included in the actual summit. Marcia stated that the crime summit is more focused on law enforcement. Carl agreed stating that the crime summit is going to be focused on law enforcement strategies. Out of that will come options for local organizations. He stated the press release is going out tomorrow.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Francis Acosta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28PM. John Santoro seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Upcoming meetings:**

**February Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 7:00PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Spruce Recreation Center**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Swoyer  
Recording Secretary