

Reading Recreation Commission
7:03PM
3rd & Spruce Recreation Center
March 11, 2014

MINUTES

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7:03PM by James Washington.

The Board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance and then the roll call of members. There were eight of eleven board members present and they included: Chris Daubert, Carl Geffken, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Eddie Moran, Don Taddei, John Santoro, Otis Smith and James Washington. Dave Ruyak arrived at 7:09PM. The following board members were absent: Manny Guzman and Allen McCloud. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director. No visitors were in attendance.

Minutes

The minutes from the February 11, 2014 were reviewed. John Santoro made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Don Taddei. The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

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

Highlights:

Reading Recreation Commission (RRC) won two state Excellence in Recreation and Parks Awards for the Girls Leadership Program and the Egyptian Art and Culture program (in partnership with the Reading Public Museum). The awards will be given at the annual State Conference. Jim Washington will be attending the banquet along with Daphne, Matt Lubas, and Judie Thompson. Berks County (County) also won a programming award for their Preschool Environmental Program. There were only ten awards awarded statewide and it is quite an honor for the RRC and the County to bring home three out of ten awards.

The annual hoagie sale will be held on April 11th. Orders for hoagies are due by Friday, April 4th. It is hoped that we will exceed our sales from last year of 750 hoagies to upwards of 1,000. Board members are encouraged to take hoagie order sheets with them to help sell hoagies at their places of employment or to friends and family. The hoagie sale is being supported by Kegel's Produce, Berks Packing, Chapman's Deli, Redner's, Singer Equipment, and Pepsi. Additionally, Otis donated several cases of mayonnaise packets and board members are being asked to donate \$20.00 each to help purchase sodas. Hoagies will be made at 3rd and Spruce on Friday, April 11th starting at 6:00AM. Help is needed to deliver hoagies to businesses, City Hall, the County Services Center, and to the school district. Dave, Don and Eddie will be able to help deliver hoagies on April 11th.

The Pitch, Hit and Run event will be held on Saturday, April 5th with a rain date of April 19th. The event will be held in conjunction with the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renovation project that was funded by Baseballtown Charities. Board members are asked to be in attendance to assist with the event and to be part of the official picture. Local officials will be invited to attend along with the management from the Reading Phils and Baseballtown Charities.

Daphne discussed the need to have board assistance for the focus groups in the school district that we will be conducting as part of our Comprehensive Plan process. Five elementary schools were chosen and they are: Northwest Elementary, 13th and Union, 10th and Penn, 16th and Haak, and Millmont. Focus groups will also be held at the high school and the Citadel. In addition to the focus groups, there will be interviews conducted with city and district officials, community leaders, and community foundation directors.

The Commission will be running eight playground programs this summer and they include: 3rd and Spruce, 11th and Pike, Hillside, Pendora, Schlegel, Keffer, 6th and Amity, and Jamestown. We will add a ninth program at Baer Park if we get use of the field house.

Daphne will be meeting with BCIU to arrange for summer transportation.

The stair treads at 3rd and Spruce are 75% completed. Thank you to Luke Shultz and Public Works for completing the project.

The annual report is almost completed. Board members will receive copies for review when completed.

There was extensive discussion regarding the discipline policy and standard protocols at 3rd and Spruce and 11th and Pike. Daphne informed the board of two recent incidents involving minors and lighters. Daphne will research Lancaster Recreation Commission's policies to see if they are consistent with ours. Suggestions were made to involve SAP at the school for kids with issues and what our liability might entail involving these incidents.

The auditors will be coming to the April meeting to present their findings.

Daphne handed out flyers for upcoming events including the Pitch, Hit and Run, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the basketball league.

Executive Session The board went into Executive Session to discuss a contractual issue at 7:50 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:25 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz and Daphne discussed the Treasurer's Report. Daphne noted that both the school district's and city's payments are current.

Carl Geffken made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Dave Ruyak seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

Facilities/Programs –

Jim Washington stated that the committee informally met prior to the regular meeting. Items discussed included the Comprehensive Park Plan and what is needed to move forward in setting up the focus groups in the schools. Additionally, ideas were discussed regarding possible events and venues and needed facilities in the city, such as a multi-sport complex similar to the one in West Chester. See attached Topics of Discussion.

Old Business

Daphne asked the board to approve the by-law changes that were first introduced and approved for first reading in January and discussed and approved in February. It was noted that the city has not yet approved the changes, so they will only go into effect once that occurs. The school district did approve and pass the changes that will allow the commission to have bi-monthly meeting and reorganization in February of each year. Carl Geffken made the motion and John Santoro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Marketing: Jim brought up the subject of the flyers and website and the need to send existing staff to training so that they can improve their desktop publishing skills. Daphne can't continue to produce all of the marketing materials in addition to everything else. Chris Daubert suggested that his dad might be willing to come in and do a staff training at no cost to the Commission.

Inclusion: Eddie Moran asked if the Pitch, Hit, and Run had provisions for kids with special needs. Jim responded that it is a national competition and that we are following the set protocols. Discussion ensued about the need for special needs programs in the city. Daphne mentioned the SNAP soccer program as an example of a program that we could emulate.

Pendora Park Grant Project: The board instructed Daphne to send a letter to Carole Snyder requesting the criteria and justification that was used to select Pendora Park for the current DCNR grant round. No letter of support for the project will be written until the board receives the information from the city. The subject will be discussed at the April meeting.

Resolved: The Board of Directors of the Reading Recreation Commission is authorizing the Executive Director to request additional information from the Managing Director

regarding the grant application for Pendora Park including the criteria used to choose Pendora Park as the recipient of the current grant round involving DCNR and CDBG funding.

Motion made by John Santoro and seconded by Don Taddei. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the board, John Santoro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM. Dave Ruyak seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming meetings:

May Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 7:00PM, 3rd and Spruce Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Klahr, CPSI
Executive Director