

Reading Recreation Commission
7:15PM
3rd & Spruce Recreation Center
Minutes of the March 13, 2018 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 7:15PM by Daphne Klahr.

The board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance and Daphne took the roll call of the members. There were seven of eight board members present and they included Christopher Celmer, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Jean Kelleher (substitution for Bernardo Carbajal), Joseph Kelleher, Donald Taddei, Jr., Brian Twyman and Patricia Wright. The following board members were absent: Bernardo Carbajal and Luke Schultz. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director, and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary).

New Business

Election of Officers

Nomination for Chairman: Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz nominated Donald Taddei Jr. for Chairman. Patricia Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nomination for Vice-Chairman: Donald Taddei Jr. nominated Christopher Celmer for Vice-Chairman. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nomination for Secretary: Christopher Celmer nominated Patricia Wright for Secretary. Brian Twyman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nomination for Treasurer: Donald Taddei Jr. nominated Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz for Treasurer. Joseph Kelleher seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution

Daphne presented a DCNR Resolution for a \$25,000.00 grant for the 11th & Pike Parks & Field Rehabilitation. We were approached by Senator Schwank's office. Senators from across the county were asked to submit their best projects. Senator Schwank submitted ours as her project. Daphne applied for this grant back in September of 2016. We had not heard anything about this until February 2018 when it was approved. This grant is for the renovation of the field at 11th & Pike. It will renovate the current field into an all-purpose field specifically for soccer and football. Daphne stated that Senator Schwank's office is going to assist her in approaching Giorgio's Foods to match this grant with \$25,000.00. So we will have \$50,000.00 for the renovation of the field and all its amenities (benching, fencing, etc.). We do already have quotes on how much it will cost to do the field itself. We have 2 years to complete the project. We would start the project in the fall and be finished by spring of 2019.

Brian Twyman asked if we have a soccer league. Daphne stated that we had a soccer program that was started by Kevin Devera and we used school district fields. We still have an in-door soccer at both centers and at 11th & Pike on their field but we would have a much bigger program with the renovation of the field. We already have a company who is willing to sponsor the program at 11th & Pike if we have the proper field. Brian Twyman asked if we have an adult soccer program. At this point we do not have an adult soccer program. We have pickleball, volleyball, basketball but we do not have soccer at this time. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she would like to speak to the Reading Liederkrantz because that is one of the programs they sponsor. Marcia stated that one of the things the Reading Liederkrantz will ask for is the use of parking at Egelman's park when they have their October Fest event. Daphne stated we have assisted them with parking for their events. Marcia stated this could begin a partnership with the RRC.

Marcia mentioned that the City set aside money for the renovations of parks and playgrounds. Ralph Johnson from Public Works asked Daphne for recommendation on renovations at the parks. Based on our master plan suggestion Daphne did submit those recommendations to Ralph. Brian Twyman proposed that Daphne put something in writing to the Administration. She stated she already did this and will forward this information to the board.

Daphne read the resolution to the board. DCNR requires that the board passes a resolution agreeing to undertake the park 11th & Pike Park and Field Rehabilitation and that you understand it is a \$25,000.00 grant and has no match required and we have 2 years to complete the project.

Jean Kelleher made a motion to accept this resolution. Christopher Celmer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Daphne turned the meeting over to the new Chairman, Donald Taddei Jr. Donald asked if there were any questions. There being none he stated our next order of business is to approve two sets of minutes.

Minutes

The minutes from the August 8, 2017 & November 14, 2017 meetings were reviewed.

Chris Celmer made a motion to approve the August and November minutes. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz asked Daphne to summarize. In the e-mail that was sent out to the board a Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual report was attached. These numbers are actual numbers as of the end of the year. This will be given to our auditor. The audit is scheduled for March 26th. Hopefully by the April meeting you will have the report from our auditor. If not the April meeting the June meeting. Daphne reported that the current budget does not show the City's payment which we just received.

We are in our afterschool program right now and gearing up for the summer playground programming which is our biggest time financially.

We also have the Reading RadSport Festival again this year. Last year we netted approximately \$25,000.00 to go towards our Food Service Program walk-in refrigerator. We are hoping to double that number this year. Marcia asked Daphne to give a background on the Reading Radsport Festival. Daphne stated that the Reading Radsport Festival came out of an event that used to happen called the Reading 120. The Reading 120 had used Redesign Reading, another non-profit entity. When Redesign Reading was unable to participate in the event, the City administration asked the Reading Recreation Commission to step in as the charity and it then became our event. At the same time we had a real need for a new walk in refrigerator for our food service program which this year we will be on track to serve approximately 80,000 meals out of 3rd & Spruce and 11th & Pike kitchens. Peter Barbey is the chief sponsor of this event. The seconded largest sponsor is Penn National Gaming. Both of those sponsors are on board again for this year and fundraising on our behalf. There are meetings held regularly. Once it becomes closer to the event there will be weekly meetings. This is by far the biggest event we have undertaken. We have changed it a little bit this year based on learning what worked and didn't work last year.

Daphne stated that normally we would have our Light up the Lantern Event which has been held the last several years in March. We are not having that event this year because we really did not make any money. It turned out to be more of a friendraiser than a fundraiser. We are hoping that the Reading Liederkrantz will allow us to have a kick-off event for the Reading Radsport Festival the Friday before the event which would be a fundraiser for the RRC. Peter Barbey has reached out to them regarding this. The dates for this event are August 3rd, 4th & 5th.

The following reports were reviewed: Balance sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months October & November 2017; November & December 2017; December 2017 & January 2018; January & February 2018; Programs Profit & Loss budget vs. actual; Administration Profit & Loss budget vs. actual; Pool Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual; Tennis Profit & Loss budget vs. actual; Income Detail Report & Expense Detail Report. Marcia asked if there were any questions because this is new to a lot of the board members and it is e-mail to them ahead of time. There being none,

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Joseph Kelleher seconded the motion. Patricia Wright abstained from the vote. Marcia asked if there was anything she could explain in further detail to Patricia. She stated that she is new to the board is not comfortable voting on the financials. The motion was approved 6 to 1 abstained.

Old Business

There is no old business to cover at this time.

Executive Director's Report

Daphne gave a verbal Executive Director's report for December 2017, January & February 2018

Highlights:

1. Every board member received a list of the upcoming commission meeting dates and upcoming special event dates. Daphne stated at the top of the list are the board meeting dates. She noted that there are two meeting dates that are back to back. March & April and October & November. This is because we are required to have six meeting a year but traditionally the December meeting we have never been able to have a quorum. It is noted that October & November are budget meetings. Listed below the meeting dates are the upcoming special events as of today. The items highlighted in yellow are events that we need the most volunteers for.
2. Daphne reviewed each special event listed; Easter Egg Hunt held March 24th; Hoagie Fundraiser held April 13th; Great American Cleanup Day held April 21st; Youth Fun Day held May 17th; Girls Leadership Trip to NYC held May 19th; Friday Night Lights for COR Tennis held June 15th, July 6th; July 20th & August 3rd; 4th of July at Schlegel Pool held July 4th; Reading Radsport Festival held August 3rd, 4th & 5th; National Night out held August 7th; Lantern Parade held August 8th; Back-to-School Bonanza held August 25th; Halloween Hayride held October 19th & 20th; and Cookies with Santa held on December 8th.
3. Hoagie Fundraiser is April 13th. It is by far our biggest small fundraiser of the year. It pays for all our field trips and transportation for our summer playground programs. The biggest gift you can give is to sell hoagies! For example Fromuth Tennis orders 40 hoagies every year. Any order of 20 hoagies will be delivered. It is a really nice lunch. You get a sandwich, chips, cookie and drink for \$8.00. We are looking for donations of mayonnaise packets, cases of soda & money towards purchasing the rolls. All the lunchmeat and produce is donated. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that it is the dedication of the Waste Water Treatment that day. She is wondering what kind of food they are going to provide and it might be worth reaching out them to see if they are interested. Daphne will send out the hoagie fundraiser order form to all board members.
4. Great American Cleanup day is April 21st. It is an event that is going on throughout the City. This is an event we also participate in. We do clean ups here at 3rd & Spruce and around the neighboring streets. Steve Harrity coordinates the events for the City.
5. Youth Fund day is at Alvernia College on May 17th. It is an event that is spear headed by the City of Reading, Reading School District and the RRC. It is a reward system for the students. The schools chose 50 7th graders from the 4 middle schools for a great day of fun on the field. Different community agencies attend to provide information to the students.
6. Girls Leadership program is traveling to NYC on May 19th. They will be traveling to the Statue of Liberty, riding the subway and doing all the fun things NYC has to offer. The buses depart Reading at 8:00am and depart NYC at 7:00pm.
7. There are 4 Friday night lights up at Hampden Park which are great events for the COR tennis program. It is a great night of friends, family food, music and tennis! It is a lot of fun!
8. On the 4th of July we have events at Schlegel pool. Every year we open at 12:00pm and stay open all day. We do games for everyone that is there.
9. Reading Radsport Festival was already discussed. We need volunteers to direct parking & assist with check ins, etc. Brian Twyman stated that he heard they wanted to combine the Downhill with this event. Daphne stated that they wanted to include the Downhill this year but the US National Downhill is the same weekend. It is not going to work out for this year but for next year we are looking at combing the events. City Park is going to be a bigger deal this year because we are adding a kids' track so the kids can participate.
10. National Night Out is August 7th. This event is coordinated with the Reading Police Department. The Police Department is funding it and we are coordinating it at Schlegel Pool. The event is from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz stated she will be there with a table for Council on Chemical Abuse.
11. The Lantern Parade is August 8th. If there is any event you show up for please let it be the lantern parade. It is very important! This is the biggest event we have that all the kids and their families attend. All the camps make banners, lanterns and carnival games. It is a week later this year due to all the snow days.

12. Back-to-School Bonzana is August 25th. This is an event where we need donations and volunteers. The Food Bank very generously donated several hundred back packs to us. We will have a big drive for school supplies. At this event we have free or reduced hair cuts, will paint nails and get kids ready for school with school supplies and school uniforms.
13. Halloween Hayride is October 19th & 20th. We definitely need volunteers for this event.
14. And then Cookies with Santa on December 8th rounds out our year. These are all the public events. We also have our regular events which include dances at our rec centers.
15. RRC won 2 out of 10 awards for programming from the State! Our awards are for our Seeds to Sprout Program & Pizza, Paint & Turtles Program which is with our partnership with the Reading Public Museum event. This marks that we have won at least 2 awards since 2014!
16. Daphne spoke about our grants and funding. She asked if anyone has seen our food service vans that drive around the city delivering meals. We received the 1st van in 2016 with funds from the Friends of Reading Hospital, National Parks & Recreation and the Walmart Foundation. They came together to purchase our food service van. Then last year we were approached by the Olivets Boys and Girls Club and asked to provide their meals at their clubs. We were already providing 21st Century meals to the schools but this would be to all their afterschool clubs except Pottstown. With the additional of all those meals we needed another van. Daphne again asked the Friends of Reading Hospital for funding. Then the United Way called and offered to pay the other ½ of the van costs. So the United Way and the Friends of Reading Hospital paid for the second van. We are now delivering over 850 meals a day between the 2 vans.
17. Alvernia University received an EPA grant to do environmental programming and education at the RRC. That grant was awarded to them so they will be working with us. They are doing an environmental club now and are going to be moving into our summer programming as well.
18. Daphne applied for funding for the Girls Leadership Program. She will be making a presentation to Power of the Purse in the next several weeks. As part of that she asked girls in the program to write their opinion about the Girls Leadership Program. She asked what they have learned from it and why it matters to them. She will be using their comments in her presentation to the Power of the Purse women.
19. Daphne reported on partnership and collaboration with several organizations. We have a tremendous amount going on. Daphne is meeting with the First Union Baptist Church, Children's Home of Reading, Habitat for Humanity, Opportunity House, Reading Youth Athletics & Girls on the Run, just to name a few of the organizations in the next couple of weeks. We are looking to partner with the Habitat for Humanity & Opportunity House to do summer playground programs.
20. We were approached by First Union Baptist Church which is over past RACC by Barbey's playground. We worked with them and John Gilmore to run a playground program last year which was very successful. They called us & asked if we would consider partnering with them to do an after school program there. They have a community center that has been remodeled. RRC is meeting with the President of RACC and looking to do a learning lab. The idea is that RACC could have a reading lab there and do the homework center and the RRC could do the afterschool programming that is non education related. We are hoping to do a 3 way partnership at that building.
21. Daphne met with Donald Taddei Jr. and some of his staff members from Reading Youth Athletics about bringing Reading Youth Athletics under the RRC. Their programs would come under the RRC's umbrella and strengthen both programs. They already use our facilities so it just makes sense to merge our resources.
22. Daphne met with the Girls on the Run Executive Director. Many of our girls from Girls Leadership are in Girls on the Run so we are looking at how we can partner in the next school year to do some collaborating work.
23. She met with the Reading Bike Hub. After the Reading Radsport Festival Jason Orth and his kids at the Bike Hub were part of an exhibition that was at the Reading Radsport Festival. The kids did fancy bike riding. There were pictured in the Reading Eagle after the event. Eric Shippers from Penn National Gaming reached out to Daphne asking if she would consider helping the Reading Bike Hub. They would like the Reading Bike Hub to become a program of the RRC so they have some stability and support. Daphne stated there are some issues with the Reading Bike Hub. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she went to a fundraiser for them a few weeks ago. The Reading Bike Hub was asked to get a business plan together.
24. We are bringing the program Teachers in the Parks to the RRC this summer. Matt Hathaway from Exeter Township is coordinating these efforts. Daphne met with Jen O'Brien and Jen Murrery from the Reading School District & Alvernia College. They have total grant funding for our kids to participate in this

program this summer. We will be paying the teachers but then reimbursed through BCIU's Title 1 funding. There is a meeting on Monday at the RRC at 4:15pm to talk about how the program is going to work this summer. Everyone is welcome to attend.

25. Daphne has been working with Deputy Chief Marasco and Sargeant Lou Shade for the leadership academy. We have been doing some leadership and team building with the police youth academy.
26. Reading Public Museum has agreed to a partnership again this summer. They are bringing all our kids from the playgrounds which is around 500 kids free of charge to visit the exhibits at the museum and then we will do a project with them. This is one of the programs we won an award for this year.
27. We are partnering with the Pottstown Health Alliance at the suggestion of DCNR. They are looking to Reading as the example of how things should be done. This is great for us! They came down here and met with us. They are taking back ideas to Pottstown to implement.
28. Daphne is meeting with Neighborhood Housing Services. They are hoping to get more of a feel on the parents of the kids that attend our programs. The hope is to reach people and teach them financial literacy. Show them how to buy their own homes and the opportunities that are available to them.
29. Daphne reviewed the Community Recreation Report that just came out. This is a draft report. She made a copy for each board member. This report was completed by FourPoint Education Partners which is a company that was contracted by The Community Foundation. They went around and evaluated all the afterschool and summer programs in the area that are currently available. They had a presentation at the Double Tree a week or so ago and presented their findings. The basic summary of their findings is that there are not enough out of school time opportunities for kids in Reading.
30. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz passed around a flyer for a Council on Chemical Abuse event being held on March 21st at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts. Council on Chemical Abuse runs a program called Too Much to Lose which is about gambling. They held a poster contest with the theme Too Much to Lose....Gambling is Risky. One of our rec kids from 3rd & Spruce Recreation Center won 1st place! The event next Wednesday is a public forum where they will have speakers come in and talk about resources for public and display the posters from the contest. Marcia stated that they are working with the Fightin Phils. They have some digital poster space out at the stadium. They would like to put Kayla's poster into an electronic version and would be shown at the stadium. Marcia asked if any of the art teachers would be able to assist with this. She is going to forward a PDF of it to Christopher Celmer.
31. Daphne gave an update on the conservancy building. We cleaned up the building, steamed the carpets and have prepared it for programming and tennis. The City of Reading IT department evaluated the building. They are in the process of putting phone lines and computer lines and activating everything. This building will be used for the COR Tennis program and other programs. It is already being used for Girls Leadership programming.
32. We are working on getting one of our students, Raycell Diaz, who is in the Girls Leadership Program is applying to a summer leadership program at Princetown University. She is a model senate participant. She is 6th in her class at Reading Intermediate High School. She is very motivated. She has been in Girls Leadership for 5 years. They will scholarship her if she has enough letters of recommendation. It is a fantastic opportunity!
33. Daphne informed the board of a sensitive issue to discuss. We have a patron of Schlegel park pool that is transgender and a discussion of access to facilities ensued. Brian Twman suggested meeting with the LGBT Center of Greater Reading for training. Daphne will follow-up with that organization.
34. The PRPS conference is in the Poconos the week of March 26th. The awards ceremony is Thursday March 29th if anyone would like to attend.

Jean Kelleher made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report as represented. Patricia Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Daphne informed the board that she received an e-mail from Robert Heebner Jr. resigning from the board. He served as a community representative from the Reading School District. She forwarded the e-mail to Christopher Celmer.

Daphne asked everyone to please sign the Conflict of Interest policy and return to her tonight. She also reminded everyone that she needs their background checks. This is asked from our auditor to be provided at the annual audit.

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz asked if the RRC has anything in the Redevelopment Authority building that is of importance. The City, the County Community Service and the Redevelopment Authority all store supplies in that building also stores supplies. Community Service asked us if we were able to provide them space in the morning to gather the volunteers of community service. They can use the front desk to sign in at 8:00am

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the board,

Joseph Kelleher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25PM. Brian Twyman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming meetings:

April Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00PM, 3rd & Spruce Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Swoyer
Recording Secretary