

Reading Recreation Commission
7:06PM
3rd & Spruce Recreation Center
Minutes of the March 29, 2016 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 7:06PM by James Washington.

Daphne took the roll call of members and then the board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance. There were ten of eleven board members present and they included Christopher Celmer, Christopher Daubert, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Joseph Kelleher, David MCCoy, Eddie Moran, David Ruyak, Otis Smith, Donald Taddei Jr. and James Washington. Eddie Moran entered the meeting at 7:12PM. The following board members were absent: Robert Heebner Jr. Guest: Bryan Twyman, JD Turner from Holistic Skateshop. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director, and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary).

James Washington took a moment to introduce the newest board member Joseph Kelleher who is representing the Reading School District.

Presentation of Annual Audit

Kelly Godfrey, CPA from Reinsel, Kuntz, Leshner LLP presented the 2015 draft audit of the Reading Recreation Commission. We are waiting to hear back from our attorney, Brett Fegley regarding a possible pending litigation. There was an incident at Schlegel pool where a minor got hurt on the ladder.

Kelly handed out the Financial Statements and Supplementary Information, December 31, 2015 and 2014 and read the Report to the Board of Directors.

She first presented The Financial Statements and Supplementary Information containing the Independent Auditor's Report; Financial Statements which were: Statement of Financial Position; Statement of Activities; Statement of Cash Flow; Notes to Financial Statements and Supplementary Information; Schedule of Functional Expenses. Kelly reviewed all the information mentioning that the Reading Recreation Commission is properly preparing its financial statements. Kelly asked if anyone had any questions.

Daphne thanked Kelly for the presentation of the audit. Christopher Daubert made a motion to approve the audit. David Ruyak seconded the motion. The Board performed a roll call of members: Christopher Celmer – yes, Christopher Daubert – yes, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz – yes, Joseph Kelleher – yes, David MCCoy – yes, Eddie Moran – yes, David Ruyak – yes, Otis Smith – yes, Donald Taddei Jr. – yes and James Washington – yes. Motion passed 10 – 0. The motion was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

Nomination for Vice Chairman: Chris Daubert nominated Eddie Moran for Vice Chairman. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz seconded the motion. The Board performed a roll call of members: Christopher Celmer – yes, Christopher Daubert – yes, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz – yes, Joseph Kelleher – yes, David MCCoy – yes, Eddie Moran – yes, David Ruyak – yes, Otis Smith – yes, Donald Taddei Jr. – yes and James Washington – yes. Motion passed 10 – 0. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

JD Turner from Holistic Skate Shop in West Reading PA attended the board meeting. He introduced a few of the Reading Skate park Association board members (Michael Cook, Jennifer Coles, Jon Coles, Dann Steffens). He stated that they have been in business now for 4 years and advised that they are now a 501c(3) charitable organization. They are in the process of completing all the paperwork to receive an employer identification number. JD presented that he would like to work hand and hand with the RRC and renovate a location into a multiuse park where all action sports can be held. He talked about a few locations that were on the top of their list. He wants to keep the location in the heart of the City where it is easily accessible for kids. He mentioned keeping it in this location could provide opportunity to have youth programs involved. A discussion followed regarding the Tony Hawk Foundation and grants that are available. JD used the Bethlehem skate park as an example. He stated that top budget would be \$350,000.00 but stated that maintenance and operations costs would be very minimal. JD was thanked for his presentation. He will be in contact in the near future.

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz asked about the skate park at Pendora. It was stated that the skate park is in deplorable condition and is increasing our liability. A group approached David Ruyak but never did anything. Daphne printed out an article and gave it to David at the meeting. The title reads “Local Business Owners Ramp Up Efforts to Rebuild Skate Park”. In the article it states that Bilal Hendricks and Jason Orthe, local business owners are revitalizing Pendora Park. Bilal Hendricks is owner of the local Reading company Strength Skateboards & Jason Orthe is owner of Reading Bike Hub. He stated that nothing was done with the park by these individuals. Marcia has received complaints stating the area is a mess with bricks and concrete being dumped there. David feels it is a start of a pump track. Daphne wanted to make David aware of the situation. Marcia asked if we could do anything official to say that we do or do not have a skate park at that location. It was advised to contact Pat Beisswanger in Risk and Safety at the City. We just need an official decision. A discussion followed.

East Reading Pool

Daphne stated that Major Scott asked her to meet with him regarding the East Reading Pool. She stated that the only way we will get involved is if it is turned into a spray ground. DCNR is encouraging this. It would need less maintenance and minimal supervision. Daphne received the price for the feasibility study which is \$2,000.00. A discussion followed.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 13, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Donald Taddei Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes. Christopher Daubert seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Daphne presented the Treasurer’s Report. She stated that we were watching the accounts closely due to not receiving payments from the COR and the RSD. Money will be pulled from reserve if necessary. Marcia reviewed the following reports: Profit and Loss budget vs. actual; Balance Sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months December and January and January and February; 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. Marcia asked if there were any questions. There being none, David Ruyak made the motion to

accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Donald Taddei Jr. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Daphne reminded the board that the Light Up the Lantern fundraiser was coming up on April 21st, 2016 at the Double Tree Hotel. Donald Taddei, Jr. is being honored at the fundraiser as our youth advocate of the year.

Executive Director's Report

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

Highlights:

1. The boxing program at Baer Park has been given their notice. Once they are gone from the location RRC will have one month to get it fixed and open for our summer sports camp. The sports camp will be a sampling of sports – soccer, baseball, basketball, etc. for kids ages 8 through 15. Kevin Devera will be running the program. Daphne stated that public works will be helping our maintenance staff with the renovations. The building will need to be inspected. This location will be added to the facility fee schedule so the building can be rented. It will be the same cost as the Schlegel Field House.
2. Daphne informed that board that we are adding another summer camp location this year at Essick playground. Gilmore Henne and the Reading Rotary are teaming up to help improve the park.
3. Daphne received a request from the Mayor's office to address the trash issue at Front and Schiller Park. Daphne stated that we do clean up parks but Front and Schiller is not a park that we have on a regular rotation. A discussion followed about finding an environmental club to assist with clean up. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested a list of parks be compiled with the park name and who is responsible for maintenance of that park.
4. Daphne informed the board the RRC is not involved with the East End Club and the current situation with the club being evicted.
5. We have been working on playground agreements with the city and playground associations. We drafted 2 agreements with Gilmore Henney and the solicitor. The agreements lay everything out cleanly. If they get passed it will set us up to do this with other organizations. Daphne stated that we have 9 playground locations this summer. Our 2 new locations are Essick Park and Baer Park.
6. Daphne reminded the board that our annual Hoagie Fundraiser is April 8th. It is our biggest 1 day fundraiser and pays for the entire summer playground transportation costs. The basketball players sold over 400 hoagies last year. We need donations of soda & mayonnaise packets.
7. Our Light Up The Lantern event is April 21st. Tickets are being discounted for board members at the rate of \$55.00. This is just for board members. Spouses & guests are \$75.00. It is being held at the Double Tree Hotel this year. Daphne handed out blank invitations to the board members.
8. Daphne stated that the Comprehensive plan is back on track. They are meeting next week to discuss the final reviews.
9. Daphne informed the board that DCNR will be visiting the May board meeting.
10. Daphne proudly announced that RRC has won 2 out of the 10 State awards this year. This is 6 awards won in 3 years! It is very exciting!! The awards and pictures were presented to the board. Daphne stated that Cindy Dunn is very impressed with the quality of our programming. Our programming is top quality and it shows.

11. The Merchandiser contacted us and are going to run a front page story on the RRC in the next few weeks.
12. A discussion was held about DCNR and Angelica Park. Daphne stated that there are 4 conversions and the City and the State have to come to an agreement. James Washington added that Pittsburgh Park and Conservancy is a great role model.

New Business

David MCCoy had questions regarding the boxing program. Daphne filled David in on the background on the intercity boxing program.

Eddie Moran exited the meeting at 9:11PM

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz would like Daphne to make a statement to the Mayor's office that the RRC will not waive any fees for building rentals. There are no exceptions. Everyone who rents a facility must pay a security deposit and a rental fee.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Christopher Celmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18PM. Donald Taddei Jr. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming meetings:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Swoyer
Recording Secretary