

Reading Recreation Commission
7:00PM
3rd & Spruce Recreation Center
Minutes of the April 9, 2019 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:00PM by Donald Taddei Jr.

The board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance and Daphne took the roll call of the members. There were five of nine board members present and they included Bernardo Carbajal, Jean Kelleher (filling in for Patricia Wright), Joseph Kelleher, Donald Taddei, Jr., and Tyler Washington. Brian Twyman entered the meeting at 7:08PM. Ralph Johnson entered the meeting at 7:34PM. The following board members were absent: Christopher Celmer, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz & Patricia Wright. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary).

Executive Session

The meeting went into executive session at 7:01PM. The meeting resumed at 7:28PM.

New Business

None

Minutes

The minutes from the March 5, 2019 meetings were reviewed.

Bernardo Carbajal made a motion to approve the March 5, 2019 minutes. Tyler Washington seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz was not able to make the meeting tonight so Daphne summarized. She stated that we received 2nd quarter payments from the city and school district. Our income and expenses are in good standing. We are coming into our busiest season with the pool opening and summer registrations being submitted. One notable item was that we did have about \$38,000.00 in our budget for the South of Penn Façade Improvement project. We transferred those funds out of our account to the Berks County Redevelopment Fund at the request of the Wyomissing Foundation. We are still doing the project and are still the lead partner but they felt it was easier since we are funded by the city and school district and it would take away any conflict. That money was sent to them in one lump sum and is reflected in the current report. The following reports were available for review: Balance sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months January 2019 & February 2019; February 2019 & March 2019, 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. Daphne asked if there were any questions, there being none,

Joseph Kelleher made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Tyler Washington seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

None

Executive Director's Report

Daphne gave a verbal Executive Director's report for April 2019

Highlights:

1. Daphne handed out multiple flyers on events that are coming up.
2. All board members had a hoagie fundraiser form with a manila folder at their seat. The hoagie fundraiser is being held on Friday, April 26th. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. It funds all of our summer playground busing, costs for field trips for all the kids (10 playgrounds this summer) and assists with the travel basketball team to travel to different schools to play basketball. Daphne reviewed what we have donated and what is needed and asked for volunteers. Orders are due on Wednesday, April 17th.

3. Daphne spoke about the QPR training (Question, Persuade, Refer) being held on Thursday, April 18th from 5:00PM to 6:30PM. This is being presented by Pam Seaman at the Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Program. This is a free training and looks like we will have quite a few people attending.
4. Our annual Easter event is being held on Saturday, April 13th at 11th & Pike Recreation Center. This begins at 10:00AM. This is a very popular event and brings a huge crowd! We are handing out books at this event. We received a huge donation from the Olivet's Boys and Girls Club.
5. The last flyer is the Healthy Kids Day & Let's Go Fly a Kite Festival presented by the YMCA. This event is a community health fair held outside at Big Vision Sports Complex on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00AM to 4:00PM.
6. The county is redoing their bike pedestrian plan. Daphne just attended the meeting which was held at Berks Nature. They sent out surveys to get people's opinions about biking and pedestrian walks in the city and transportation, etc. It was more geared for recreational cycling instead of using these means for transportation around the city. They are looking to go into the school and do focus groups with kids to find out what they encounter when walking to school and what it is like to cycle throughout the city. She asked if anyone was interested in helping with that to let her know. A discuss about kids and biking in the city followed.
7. The South of Penn Façade Improvement project is moving forward. The work is going to start in the next couple of weeks. This entire block is being remodeled. It is going to look fantastic when it is done. Daphne stated that the sidewalks are not a part of this program because of the cost. Bryan Twyman asked Ralph Johnson if there was anything the city had planned for them. Ralph stated that the city was putting together a program to help offset the costs to homeowners. He stated he will check with Osmer Deming about it.
8. We took our girls leadership program down to the GET Expo in Phoenixville at the Phoenixville Middle School. For those of you in the school district Daphne highly recommends the Reading School District registers kids for this next year. It is free but you have to register. She stated it was the most awesome expo she has every attended for kids. She stated that there were so many school districts in attendance.
9. We are working with the library and Kevin Lugo from Public Works about adding some specialized programs down here to focus on careers.
10. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 6th in partnership with the Reading Police Department.
11. The Berks County Community census are looking for people to fill paid positions. If you know of anyone who is interested in being a tabulator and having a position for the census in the county they can fill out an application. They are getting a packet of information together. Once Daphne receives it she will forward it to all board members.
12. Daphne has some news on 9th & Marion Fire Company. They are looking to put the fire company on the existing playground. She then read in the paper that the mayor does not want to tear down the building. Daphne's first thought was this would make an awesome recreation center in the right area of the city! Daphne spoke to Ralph and everyone agreed to explore the idea. She stated that the building has good bones. It has a new roof, a kitchen, big rooms with lots of space, big bathrooms, etc. The city hired Shawn Garrigan who specializes in looking at buildings and reusing them. At this time we are waiting on this report. There is money available for this project and Daphne spoke with DCNR about possible additional funding.
13. Daphne attend her first meeting for the Northeast Task Force. They are just trying to figure out what they are doing. Currently there are only a few core members. Bernardo Carbajal asked who is running the task force. Daphne stated Jackie Fetrow President of Albright College and the Wyomissing Foundation are the leads on the task force. Right now they are in the exploratory stage doing inventory of what things are in the Northeast like day care centers, afterschool programs, etc.
14. We are having Teachers in the Park again this summer. We are offering it at three locations this summer, City Park, 3rd & Spruce & 11th & Pike.
15. We met with Progressions, the counseling service we talked about last meeting. They looked at our buildings at 3rd & Spruce and 11th & Pike and feel they can make it work. We put the application in to the county and now we are just going through the approval process. We are hoping to get that counseling service up and running for summer playgrounds.
16. We wrote support letters for the two DCNR projects that are going in from the city. They are for 3rd & Spruce to put in an inclusive playground and rehabilitate our playground which is long overdue and to complete a feasibility study for Schlegel Park Pool which we have been putting band aids on for years.

Ralph added that the pool was built back in the 1950's and is not up to date with LGBTQ issues. He stated we need to look at the entire pool and not just the pool and deck which is shot from wear and tear. Daphne stated the pool is used heavily.

17. At the conference Daphne attended she went to a LGBTQ session which was excellent. The presenter was a guidance school counselor who made the presentation geared to everyone. Daphne felt it was very informative. She met with her and asked her if she would be willing to come to Reading and do training for our summer staff.
18. Hillside Pool update: The city is in negotiations with the lawyer from the Hillside Playground Association. Daphne called Osmer Deming today to see if anything additional had been received and he said just today that there is two more items in the agreement that need to be discussed.
19. Daphne then gave an update on the East Reading Pool. It came to the city for repository bid for \$500.00. She believes at last night's meeting the Mayor did not accept or reject it. Daphne asked for clarification. If the Mayor would have accepted it that would have meant that the person that bid \$500.00 would have gotten the property. The city has to sign off on it. If he rejected it, it goes back to the county to be put back up for sheriff sale. Osmer Deming believes that the Mayor is rejecting it and it will go back to the county and go back up for bid in July or August and then we would have the right to purchase that property if we want to. A discussion followed regarding Hillside and East Reading Pool.
20. Daphne reported on the Berks Summer Coalition Program. There will be free busing to 5th – 11th graders in the city of reading this summer so they can get to their activities. The training she believes is coming through the school district. So it is not a free for all. It is a training these kids must attend in order to get these passes. For instance it will give kids the freedom to get to the Schlegel Park pool without having to walk across Bingham Street Bridge or to play in summer basketball leagues, etc. We are trying this as a pilot program. Bernardo asked if people were volunteering to drive kids. Daphne explained this is through BARTA. They already have the routes in place that our kids need to use. We had to provide to the Community Foundation the bus routes that serve our facilities. For example to the Schlegel Park Pool, to our 10 playground program locations, tennis at Hampden Park, etc. All the other organizations are doing the same thing. Then they can determine where the need is. They will be trained on how to ride the bus and receive a bus pass.
21. The Berks Alliance Community Forum is being held on Thursday, May 23rd from 11:30AM to 1:00PM is going to be featuring the South of Penn and the 19th wonder buttonwood gateway. Daphne was just invited to this today to present on behalf of the South of Penn to talk about the initiatives that are going on in our area.
22. Daphne mentioned that Brian was our celebrity chef up at 11th & Pike and was a big hit. Brian stated that he kept it to a basic meal that kids could easily make at home.

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

Public Comment

Donald Taddei Jr. asked Daphne if she could provide a summary of events to the board. Donald asked how it is going with 10 playground program this year. Daphne stated that there is an issue with the kids from Berks Career Link. Daphne explained that we use a lot of kids from Berks Career Link to supplement our staff. Berks Career Link pays them for 6 weeks and then if a kid is really good or we know them or have referred them we will offer them a job and pay them for the remaining weeks of our programs. So some of the kids that we are familiar with receive a full 8 weeks of work. They are only placing 100 kids this year which is much lower from what they normally provide. Brian Twyman asked why and Daphne stated she believes it is because of funding. Brian stated he would look into that.

Ralph Johnson asked if there was an update on the refrigerator walk-in project. Daphne stated at this time no. He also asked if there was an update on the master plan. She stated there are still some incorrect wording that needs to be removed. It is almost done. There are a few minute details.

Adjournment

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

Bernardo Carbajal made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17PM. Brian Twyman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming meetings:

June Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, June 11th at 7:00PM, 3rd & Spruce Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Swoyer
Recording Secretary