

Reading Recreation Commission
6:57PM
3rd & Spruce Recreation Center

Minutes of the June 11, 2013 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 6:57PM by James Washington.

The Board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance and then the roll call of members. There were seven of ten board members present and they included: Carl Geffken, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Robert Peters, John Santoro, Otis Smith and James Washington. Marisol Torres arrived at 7:34PM. The following board members were absent: Francis Acosta, Eddie Moran and Donald Taddei, Jr. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary). No visitors were in attendance.

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz asked James Washington to announce that it is Francis Acosta's intention to submit his resignation to the board. He stated that he will find someone else to replace his position on the board.

Minutes

The minutes from the April 9, 2013 were reviewed (May meeting was canceled). John Santoro made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Peters. The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Daphne gave a verbal Executive Director's report for April & May.

Highlights:

Daphne asked everyone to look around at the donations in the teen center: board table, bookshelf, ping pong table and trophy case.

Daphne met with John Smith from the Reading Public Museum. As a result of that meeting the recreation center will be partnering with the Reading Public Museum. They will visit each of our playgrounds to teach the kids about Egyptian Mythology and do appropriate craft activities. The following day the playgrounds will visit the museum for an entire afternoon to tour the museum, participate in games, make crafts and visit the planetarium.

Daphne discussed the cancelation of our City Park summer program. She stated that the summer playground programs need to have a location to serve food. She discussed the issue further with Charlie Jones, COR Public Works and Donald Taddei, Jr. who is handling the food service for the Blacktop League. Public Works told the recreation commission that the concession stand would not be available for our use until after the Blacktop League is over in July. As a result, the playground program at City Park was canceled due to a lack of a facility from which to serve food out of to the kids. Daphne had arranged to use the Keshet Zion Synagogue as a rain site location for the program but those arrangements are now unnecessary. Discussion followed regarding issues with other parks including Baer Park. The question has been raised numerous times regarding why the

recreation commission does not have access to the field house. We do not have access to the field house because of the boxing program that is located there. A Discussion followed and Carl Geffken stated that he will set up a meeting with Carol Snyder regarding this. Tammy Mitgang, President of the Jewish Federation suggested using the empty building in the Google Works for the boxing program. Joel Brigel, Principal of Northwest Middle School suggested using the old Southern school gym which is now just being used for storage.

The 6th and Amity Playground Program was canceled due to lack of registrations received.

Daphne met with Joel Brigel, Principal of Northwest Middle School to discuss how the school and the Commission could work together to have special events and programs to benefit the middle schools. We will be holding a joint middle school dance in the fall to be held at Northwest.

Daphne met with Kevin Murphy and Heidi Williamson from the Berks County Community Foundation. They discussed various funding opportunities that are available and discussed possible solutions from the transportation issue facing the playgrounds this summer. They recommended that Daphne meet with Dr. John George from the BCIU as well as his wife, Kim Murphy, from the Berks County Conservancy.

Berks County Community Foundation supported the tennis program with a grant in the amount of \$7,800.00. This will help support the general tennis programming and services.

Daphne met with Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz and Jackie Steed from the Council on Chemical Abuse and representatives from Berks Women in Crisis to discuss the RYVP grant. Berks Women in Crisis will collaborate on incorporating the Coaching Boys into Men program into our summer basketball league. Marcia spoke in detail about this program stating that it is just not a league. The representatives will be working with the coaches to watch out for behaviors and provide guidance and support. Berks Women in Crisis is using this as a pilot with hopes to move the program into the Reading School District.

Daphne will be meeting with BCIU to arrange for summer transportation. The costs will be fuel and drivers only. She is hoping to still use RHMC for the smaller trips. RHMC contracted their shuttle maintenance services and shuttles are not as readily available as they were in the past.

Heather Boyer and Matt Lubas coordinated the activities for this year's Youth Fund Day which is an incentive for junior high children with good grades, attendance, etc. It is a day out of school with fun activities for the children. This event was held at Albright College.

Heather Boyer was recognized for her 18 years of service at the end-of-the-year talent show at 3rd and Spruce. Mayor Vaughn Spencer presented Heather with a commendation. Also honored with Certificates of Appreciation were John Huber, Maritza Loaiza, Tiffany Anderson and Barbie Rivera.

Daphne mentioned that the 3rd and Spruce gym floor was just refinished by Clean Image. The stains that remain are from when the gym was flooded.

As a result of the money raised from the hoagie sale, our recreation youth traveled to Camden Adventure Aquarium, the Philadelphia Zoo and a special dining night at Judy's on Cherry.

Congratulations to Coach Jordan Shelton, who in addition to being one of our coaches and recreation leaders, was recently hired as the assistant high school basketball coach.

The pool opened this past weekend with an attendance of over 200 plus people on Sunday. The pool is about 95% completed with the renovations which totaled almost \$300,000.00. The renovations included ADA compliance upgrades, new amenities such as tables and benches and renovated bathroom facilities.

Daphne met with Beverly Houck from the Yocum Institute to discuss summer programming and collaborations from the RYVP grant. Yocum will be submitting a grant for a theatre program and, if approved, will be using the 11th and Pike gym in August to run the program.

Daphne handed out an article from the Reading Eagle that posted the involvement and fundraising efforts of Chuck Domino for the Baer Park Baseball field Renovation Project. She also handed out a flyer that was done by Baseball Town Charities. There also was a second article in the Reading Eagle that was posted about the dining event at Judy's on Cherry. This article and flyer will be posted at the restaurant. We received a call from a parent who read the article and was interested in future participation of an etiquette program. An etiquette program is in the works for the fall program.

Daphne handed out the flyer with information on our summer programs. We entered into agreement with Pastor Bell and the Jamestown Community to provide supplemental playground services for their program for a total of \$1,500.00 payable to the Commission. Jamestown will provide all leaders and transportation. Jamestown kids will be included in all summer playground activities including field trips, arts and crafts and special events.

Daphne met with Reverend Rebecca Knox to discuss how the church in Glenside and the Commission could partner to provide a program for kids in Glenside, who were previously served by the Olivet's program. Rev. Knox received an RYVP grant which will allow her to hold a 3-day playground program for 6 weeks this summer. We will be providing arts and crafts support along with including Glenside kids in our special events and field trips. The grant will be paying for staffing costs and arts and crafts supplies.

Daphne toured Glenside and Oakbrook Housing Developments with Stacey Keppen from the Reading Housing Authority. The meeting came as a result from her inquiry into the advertised RFP for youth program services that she received from Bob Peters.

Daphne requested the use of the RSD Performing Arts Center to be used for our "Best of Berks" bingo to be held on October 5th. Daphne asked the board members for their assistance in fundraising and getting prizes donated. The goal is to raise \$7,000.00. Once Daphne receives everyone lists of donators she will develop letters and send them out with their business cards. Daphne is applying for a bingo license.

Daphne will be on vacation next week. All questions should be directed to Rebecca Swoyer.

Treasurer's Report

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz discussed the Treasurer's Report. Daphne stated that we are current with payments for 1st and 2nd school and city payments. She will be sending out 3rd quarter payments. Our main account has over \$300,000.00.

Marcia reviewed the following reports: Balance Sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months April and May; 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, Carl Geffken made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. John Santoro seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

James asked for the actual year to date report to be added to the list of the reports. That will start for July.

Subcommittee Reports

A. Finance –

Carl Geffken stated that he will meet with Daphne to start to review next year's budget. There is a pool issue and the receipt process. Barbie just cannot keep up with writing out the receipts. We need to be able to see the money that comes in. Daphne asked for suggestions to come up with a plan for the receipt procedure at the pool.

B. Personnel –

Daphne Klahr presented the Employee Conduct and Discipline policy to the board. A copy of the Employee Conduct and Discipline policy and resolution 2013-7 was given to all board members. James Washington made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2013-7 that the Reading Recreation Commission has adopted an Employee Conduct and Discipline policy for all employees as outlined in Attachment A. John Santoro seconded the motion. The Board performed a roll call of members: Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz - yes, Robert Peters – yes, John Santoro - yes, Otis Smith - yes, Marisol Torres – yes and James Washington – yes. Motion passed 7-0.

D. Facilities/Programs –

John Santoro stated that the committee informally met. John stated that everything was already discussed in the meeting that was discussed in the subcommittee.

New Business

James Washington discussed the athletic department and elimination of them in the middle schools. He would like to speak with the Commission on how we can work with the middle schools and their sports. 6th, 7th & 8th graders are being left behind. There is a need to create some programs – soccer, baseball, football, basketball with recreation centers. John Santoro stated that it could be a very good opportunity and work for both the school district and the Commission. James stated that it really needs to be researched. John stated costs, how it could be done at a

cheaper rate and better for all. Transportation was discussed as well as costs. Daphne gave an example based on our basketball program (before the grant). For an 8 week program the actual cost would be \$50.00 a player and that is with coaches and facilities volunteering. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz stated once the district makes a decision we need to have a meeting to determine what will all be involved.

Daphne requested and received a \$500.00 donation for the summer basketball program from Hartman Shurr. Their name is being included on our team shirts as recognition of their sponsorship.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the board, John Santoro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM. Carl Geffken seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming meetings:

July Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, July 9th, 2013 at 7:00PM, Schlegel Park Field House

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Swoyer
Recording Secretary