

Reading Recreation Commission
7:04PM
3rd & Spruce Recreation Center
Minutes of the June 11, 2019 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 7:04PM by Donald Taddei Jr.

The board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance and Daphne took the roll call of the members. There were seven of nine board members present and they included Bernardo Carbajal, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Ralph Johnson, Joseph Kelleher, Donald Taddei, Jr., Brian Twyman & Tyler Washington. The following board members were absent: Christopher Celmer & Patricia Wright. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary). Guest: Marie Delaney, Hector Perez & Juan Zabala.

Public Comment

Hector Perez attended the meeting to speak about basketball. He is a basketball coach in the community. He presented at the last city council meeting asking for a community youth sports complex. He would like a facility something like Spooky Nook. Daphne asked if he has sites in mind or has any plans in place. At this time he is just looking into things and trying to spread the message. Daphne asked for Hector's contact information and offered for him to come in and meet with our sports coordinators. Daphne provided Hector with her business card.

New Business

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz discussed the Pagoda and how the RRC could become more involved. Marcia is looking to bring more invigorating activities up there. She would like something new and exciting every weekend. Marcia met with Daphne and asked her to come up with some ideas through the RRC so they could begin sponsoring some events. Daphne felt a BYOB painting class would be a great idea. Marcia checked and BYOB is allowed. Daphne stated to possibly partner with the Women to Women from the chamber event and maybe use it as a venue. They hold mixers and they ask people to host the mixers. A discussion followed. Marcia asked permission from the board for Daphne to help with event planning and then having it be sponsored by the RRC. Daphne mentioned the renovations that need to happen at the Pagoda. A discussion followed regarding the condition of the Pagoda. Daphne asked Ralph if the building has been evaluated and Ralph stated not to his knowledge. Marcia stated the last upgrade that was done was about 20 years ago. Daphne stated if the board approves she can look into the cost & availability of the painting class with the BYOB as a kickoff event and see how it goes and maybe that can become like a series. Tyler Washington stated that he thinks it would be pretty cool to have a make shift mini golf course around the Pagoda. The board was fine with Daphne looking into ideas.

Tyler Washington discussed Reading Iron. He just recently joined the Iron Man Athletic Association. They are looking to adopt Reading Iron playground. They would like to go in at least monthly to clean up the park. With that being said Tyler feels we should be looking for other organizations to "adopt" a park and do the same. He stated that we could put a tab on our website to adopt a park. Ralph Johnson stated that Tyler can reach out to Steve Harrity with the clean city program down at Public Works for supplies. Daphne will e-mail Tyler his information. Marcia asked Daphne what parks have regular clean ups. Daphne said it depends on what groups we are working with at the moment. We have ongoing community service with our partnership through the county. That involves, 3rd & Spruce, 11th & Pike, Hampden Park, City Park, EJ Dives, Baer Park and Keffer Park. They go around in groups. The ones that get the biggest clean ups are Baer Park, City Park & 3rd & Spruce which are done weekly. We have one neighborhood association at Centre Park that is actively involved in keeping their park clean. The remaining parks are mostly one day projects.

Minutes

The minutes from the April 9, 2019 meetings were reviewed.

Joseph Kelleher made a motion to approve the April 9, 2019 minutes. Bernardo Carbajal seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Daphne reported that we are current with the city and school district payments. Next month we will request the 3rd quarter payments. The Schlegel Pool opened and summer playground registrations are coming in. This is our busy season. Financially we are looking good. The following reports were available for review: Balance sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months April & May 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,

Ralph Johnson 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 May 2019

Highlights:

1. The South of Penn Façade Improvement project has started. 337 South 3rd Street has a new porch! House lights have begun to be installed. All the homes will be painted. David Hunter from the City came down to look at the sidewalks and see what funds could be used for this. In addition to the Wyomissing Foundation we now have a corporate sponsor BB&T Bank. They are having volunteers down to scrap and paint the wrought iron railings. By the end of summer all that work should be done. A question was asked if the gas meters can be moved back under the porch. City Council had a legal battle with UGI about meters. A discussion followed regarding the gas meters. Daphne stated that once the project is completed there will be a block party. Homeowners are very excited!
2. We received another fresh fruit grant from the Reading Hospital. We give out a piece of fresh fruit to kids every day after school.
3. We received 2 grants for the South of Penn Basketball program for year 2019-2020. The program starts in October and runs through May.
4. Daphne met with DCNR regarding the Angelica Park conversion. They went on a mini tour of 9th & Marion and Hillside. Marcia asked if there was an update on Hillside. Daphne presented to city council but it is her understanding that they did pass on the purchase of Hillside. She doesn't know anything beyond that.
5. We are partnering with The Reading Garden Club. They are going to be doing an herb planting workshop with the kids from 11th & Pike on June 25th.
6. Youth Fun Day at Alvernia was held in May this year in honor of Tonya Butler. It was a huge success. We honored Tonya Butler who is battling a medical condition. All the kids wore pink for her. It was a great honor to her and a great day overall.
7. Daphne represented the RRC at the Northeast Career Day. Alex Brown and his staff do an amazing job. They brought in professionals from all over the city and county to talk to kids. Every single kid went through all the booths.
8. Daphne presented to the Berks Alliance about the South of Penn project and our basketball programs with kids. Several businessmen who attended the Berks Alliance presentation came up to Daphne at the Chamber's annual dinner that night and stated how impressed they were with her presentation.
9. Daphne was invited to attend the Chamber's annual dinner event.
10. Daphne stated earlier that BB&T bank is now a corporate sponsor for the façade improvement project and have had volunteers helping with the work.
11. Daphne gave a tour to the Environmental Advisory Committee for the city of several parks. The parks included Schlegel, Pendora, Neversink, 10th & South, 11th & Pike & Baer park. She would like to do the same tour for the board members this summer. Several board members are interested and would like to do it one night around 5:00PM.
12. Teachers in the Park is returning again this year. We won state recognition for this program last year! This year we are expanding to 3 locations, City Park, 11th & Pike and 3rd & Spruce. We also picked up a 4th location in Muhlenberg. In the city we have mostly Reading School District teachers teaching reading school districts kids. We have had a great response for kids signing up for that program. Tomorrow night we have a training for the teachers in the parks to be trained by Matt Hathaway and the state facilitator.

13. We are also having the playground leaders training tomorrow. We are currently advertising 10 sites but will probably only have 9. We have tried to have a playground program at 6th & Amity for 2 or 3 years and so far only 1 kid is signed up. Daphne believes what is happening is that the neighborhood wants a playground program but not enough kids live in that area to warrant a program. Marcia asked about a playground program at Neversink. Daphne stated there is something in the works for that area through the local church.
14. Daphne informed the board that COR Tennis Friday Night Lights schedule is June 28, July 19 & August 9th. This is a great family event.
15. Schlegel Park Pool is open and the water is freezing!
16. Daphne informed the board that Schlegel Park Pool has a swim team this year. Matt Lubas is running the program. We have 4 swim meets with the first one on June 17th in Topton. Ralph asked who sponsored the program. Daphne stated that John Masano himself sponsored the program.
17. Marcia asked if we could provide transportation for the kids to the hillclimb. Daphne stated that anyone who goes up receives transportation which we are providing.
18. 4 of our students from Reading School District were chosen to meet Chris Everett in Philadelphia at a meet in greet at Independence Hall.
19. We also have 48 people (24 kids & 24 parents) going to the US Open on September 1st in New York.
20. Daphne reminded all board members that we need volunteers for our Chef Sprout program. This will be starting in the fall.
21. The Radsport is in August. Everything is moving forward. You have all read about what is going on with the Reading Eagle and they were our primary sponsor. Peter Barbey is continuing to sponsor that event from the Edwin Barbey Charitable Trust. So everything is full speed ahead. We need volunteers for both days, especially at City Park. If you volunteer you will all get VIP passes to the tents that have food and alcohol.
22. Daphne handed out a calendar of events to all board members. Volunteers are needed for items highlighted in yellow

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

Adjournment

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

Joseph Kelleher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18PM. Ralph Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming meetings:

August Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, August 13th at 7:00PM, 3rd & Spruce Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Swoyer
Recording Secretary