

Reading Recreation Commission
7:00PM
3rd & Spruce Recreation Center
Minutes of the July 14, 2015 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at 7:00PM by James Washington.

The Board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance and then the roll call of members. There were ten of eleven board members present and they included: Christopher Daubert, Carl Geffken, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Eddie Moran, Manuel Guzman, David Ruyak, John Santoro, Otis Smith, Donald Taddei Jr. and James Washington. Christopher Daubert arrived at 7:04PM. David Ruyak arrived at 7:06PM. The following board members were absent: Christopher Celmer. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director, Camille Stock, Chief Development Officer and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary).

Minutes

The minutes from the March 3, 2015 special meeting & April 21, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Eddie Moran seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

James Washington discussed the continuing absence of board members and the need for board meeting attendance.

New Business

Daphne briefed the board on alternate board appointments from the City of Reading and Reading School District. James Washington read Resolution 2015-4 for the first reading. Amending section 2.20(h) substitute directors. There will be 1 alternate. Daphne brought attention to #3. Discussion followed regarding this resolution and recommendations from our solicitor, Brett Fegley. Daphne read Brett's legal suggestions. John Santoro made a motion to accept the first reading of Resolution 2015-4. Carl Geffken seconded the motion. The Board performed a roll call of members: Christopher Daubert – yes; Carl Geffken – yes; Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz – yes; Manuel Guzman – no; Eddie Moran – yes; David Ruyak – yes; John Santoro – no; Otis Smith – yes; Donald Taddei Jr. – yes; and James Washington – yes. Motion passed 8-2. Resolution 2015-4 will be scheduled and reviewed for the final vote at the next meeting. Resolution 2015-4 will be amended to remove the wording unanimously. Motion made by Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz and seconded by Carl Geffken.

There was a discussion about the meeting with the Olivet Boys & Girls Club meeting that was held on June 1st with Pablo Tejada, Matthew Lubas and Daphne Klahr. James asked if any board member was not aware of the concerns that came from that meeting. Each board member expressed their opinion and concerns. They are summarized, as follows:

- The RRC should do everything that we can to work together with the OBGC
- Look at the needs of the children and go from there. Work together. Utilize a mediator
- We are doing good things for the City. We do not need a mediator. We should continue moving forward doing good things

- “Competition” is a natural part of coexisting. The word has taken on a negative meaning, and it shouldn’t.
- There are many children to serve. If an organization does not wish to work with us, then so be it.
- Keep inviting the OBGC to the table, even if they decline the invitation.
- Grants are fair game. We shouldn’t be told what monies we can apply for
- This situation has opened a door to bigger discussions. Sometimes, good comes out of crazy.

Jim met with Peter Butera, the board president of the OBGC. There will be a meeting held with board members from both organizations and the executive directors. Don Taddei requested that he be included in that meeting.

Daphne pointed out that the RRC has gladly supported many programs of the Olivets (food service, gym usage, pool passes etc) and expressed disappointment that our baseball team was turned down for scrimmage matches per the directive of the OBGC administration. Daphne also addressed the importance of the RRC being stewards of public money and asked for the board to be totally supportive of our efforts. She stated that the RRC will continue to invite the OBGC to be part of programming and restated the summary of the discussion about pursuing RFP’s that make sense for the RRC.

Camille Stock, Chief Development Officer for the RRC spoke to the board about her progress. She stated that money follows mission and our mission is to serve the residents of the City. She stated to let the donors decide who they are going to support. There are a lot of people in this community who support many organizations. We are going to be sending support letters out to many organizations that support other organizations. We need to think big. She stated that the RRC’s quality of program is second to none. When we believe in ourselves that shines through. Camille informed the board that she and Daphne just met with the YMCA. The YMCA just got a new development director and she contacted Camille for assistance. Camille spoke with Daphne and a meeting was scheduled. The meeting went very well. We are looking to do fundraising, basketball, hand ball, etc. with them. It was a very positive meeting. We are meeting with them in 2 weeks again.

Treasurer’s Report

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz discussed the Treasurer’s Report. Things are going well. Daphne informed the board that we now have 4 accounts. The website for credit cards will be up in running in a few weeks. Marcia reviewed the following reports: Profit and Loss budget vs. actual; Balance Sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months March and April and 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, John Santoro made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Manuel Guzman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Daphne provided an update on the comprehensive plan. They had their third meeting. They are almost at the point where it will go out for public comment. There are very good recommendations and a lot is geared towards maintenance. There is a master plan for Pendora Park & 3rd & Spruce. There is already a master plan for City Park. They discussed the future of our funding and working to protect our assets as far as our park system goes. A draft will be sent out with a bullet point of recommendations. James reminded that we have to advertise and invite people to come to present it. They are looking to present it in September. A discussion followed regarding Blacktop league which is in City Park and has over 80 teams and their trash issue. Due to the high numbers of participants and spectators, trash is a major issue. David Ruyak spoke with someone about this ongoing issue. The solid waste department put out more recycling cans but the trash still remains.

Executive Director's Report

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

Highlights:

1. Daphne showed the board our new slogan "I make Reading look good". We trademarked this slogan. It is on our playground shirts for the summer. Daphne showed the board the new summer shirts. Everyone loves them! We are doing interviews with residents, staff, parents, etc. on why they make reading look good. Daphne asked everyone to please share our posts on Facebook.
2. This year we will be working with the Reading Public Museum on a new project titled Framed: Step into Art. The playground programs will be creating their own art work based on famous artists and will be displayed at the Museum on Thursday, July 23rd. Mark it on your calendars, come on out and wear your RRC shirts!
3. Slide the city that was scheduled for Saturday, August 8th was canceled by the event coordinators. They are hopeful to have this event next year.
4. Daphne has been working for 3 ½ years on trying to get the Baer Park fieldhouse back in order to hold a playground program and have a concession stand at the park. There has been a boxing program there during that time. Approximately 2 weeks ago the boxing program was asked to leave and the locks were changed. This was done in order to give it to another boxing program.
5. We will once again be applying for an art grant to support the summer art program. We are receiving great feedback on this program.
6. We are having a COR tennis fundraising event on Thursday, September 17th from 5:30PM to 9:00PM. Our goal is to raise \$100,000. Camille is facilitating this event and Pat Shields from Fromuth Tennis will be the dinner sponsor.
7. Daphne informed the board that Larry Zerbe was named tennis coach of the year! There was an article in Net Play Magazine. Matthew Lubas was named swim coach of the year!
8. Daphne provided an updated on the pump track with Brian Kelly. He was advised to look at Schlegel Park and submit his request in writing. There was a meeting held for this issue and he did not show up. He has found another site which is not a city owned property.
9. There was an article in yesterday's paper on the front page of section B – Soccer goes global on Reading High Field. Reading United AC players join city kids for drills, workout. 35 kids paid to play. Kevin Devera, Sports Program Manager for the RRC is very passionate about soccer. He is doing an excellent job!
10. The Shine Bright softball team visited the Reading Fightin Phillies a few weeks ago to honor Ruth Hartman. The RRC has established a "Ruth Hartman Softball Fund" as a way to honor Ruth

Hartman for her many contributions to the game of softball as a coach, mentor, teacher and friend. This program has become super strong with just adding 4 districts.

11. Daphne received a call from the Boylan's who own Berks Packing. They are now making sandwiches and have asked us to use our kitchen. We are going to work with them. In return they have offered to provide free lunchmeat to the RRC.
12. We will be involved in the 7th grade initiative and would like to extend to 8th graders, as well. Try it this year and see how it goes. We only charge \$25.00 for the year. We can pay it from the scholarship fund. It doesn't affect our bottom line a tremendous amount financially, but the payoff to the kids could be huge. . This is just for Southwest Middle school. Very high risk group within Reading.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the board, David Ruyak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06PM. Donald Taddei Jr. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming meetings:

-October Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00PM, 3rd and Spruce Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Swoyer
Recording Secretary