

Reading Recreation Commission
6:57PM
Schlegel Park Field House

Minutes of the July 9, 2013 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, July 9, 2013, at 6:57PM by Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz.

The Board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance and then the roll call of members. There were six of ten board members present and they included: Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Donna Reed, John Santoro, Otis Smith, Donald Taddei, Jr. and Marisol Torres. The following board members were absent: Carl Geffken, Eddie Moran, Robert Peters and James Washington. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary). Visitors in attendance: Mayor Vaughn Spencer and Jeffery Willis.

Daphne stated the City Council appointed Donna Reed as a board member. She is replacing Francis Acosta.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 11, 2013 were reviewed. Donald Taddei, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by John Santoro. The motion was approved unanimously.

Correction – Daphne provided a written Executive Director's report in May. It was not a verbal report.

Executive Director's Report

Daphne handed out her Executive Director's report for June.

Highlights:

Alvernia University will, once again, be completing their freshman orientation day of service in Reading parks, playgrounds, and facilities. Daphne met with Jay Worrell and Jessica Umbenhauer to discuss what parks need prioritized for work. Daphne will be doing maintenance audits on the parks this week. Board members have agreed to assist in her maintenance audits. Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she has volunteers from the Fairview Christian Academy. She will have them contact Daphne. Daphne stated it would be great if volunteers would come every month and go to the same place and provide maintenance.

Daphne met with John Turner of the West Reading Skate Shop. John is interested in making a skate park at Pendor Park. A discussion followed regarding price. Otis Smith stated that he inquired about a skate park years ago and it was very expensive. Daphne stated that the new trend is using formed concrete. She explained that the concrete is formed over gravel and mesh. Daphne stated that there is a concrete skate park in Bethlehem located across from the Sands Casino. It is beautiful and the community response has been very positive.

Daphne met with Charlie Jones to discuss CBDG grant application ideas. She submitted a revision to the previously submitted 11th & Pike grant application to include perimeter fencing. She also submitted a new application for basketball court renovations at Baer Park.

She met with a representative from Boscov's to give an overview of the Baer Park project and request funding.

Daphne met with an architect to discuss the scope of work planned for Keffer Park. The plans currently include installing new play equipment, ADA access, removal of old surfacing pads and security lighting.

The CBIM (coaching boys into men) training that was held at 3rd & Spruce in conjunction with the 11th & Pike basketball league was very positive. Our program is being used as a pilot site to test the effectiveness of the CBIM curriculum. The Summer City Hoops League is entering its 2nd week of play. The feedback has been very good. We received a lot of late registrations. Kids that are unable to play in our league this summer will be invited to play in a fall league at 3rd & Spruce. Currently, we have 7 teams participating with 12 – 14 players per team.

Our summer playground program is going very well. We have 7 locations which are all at capacity – except Pandora. The Museum program is excellent and the kids love it. Tomorrow is the Philadelphia 76er's event. It has been moved to Southwest at 2:00pm at the school. We expect about 400 kids and extra groups! The Lantern Parade at City Park will be held on Wednesday, August 7th starting at 6:30pm. The rain date is Thursday, August 8th.

Our website is now in our control and we have been updating it daily.

Daphne received sponsorship ideas from several board members for the "Best of Berks Bingo" fundraiser to be held in October. We would like to do 24 gift baskets ranging in price from \$100.00 to \$150.00.

Daphne will be on vacation from July 22 – 26th. Rebecca will be the first point of contact to handle any issues that may arise.

Daphne showed the board the Reading Recreation Charm. They are very limited edition and available to all board members for \$63.00. The retail cost is \$79.99 and will be posted on our website.

Daphne asked if board members have noticed the great press we are receiving at our events!

Treasurer's Report

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz discussed the Treasurer's Report. Marcia reviewed the following reports: Profit and Loss budget vs. actual; Balance Sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months May and June; 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. Donald Taddei, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Profit and Loss budget vs. actual report was added per James Washington request at the June meeting.

Daphne referenced the pool. We are not even quite ½ way through our season and we are at 55% already. Renovations have been very well received.

Daphne was asked to present to City Council the rationale for our adopted fee schedule. The meeting went well and the fees will be adopted at the next regular meeting. City Council requested that the Commission submit all fees for the following year to Council in January each year for review and adoption. James Washington also attended the meeting to represent the Commission. Daphne was previously asked to provide a copy of our by-laws to Mr. Kersley to be reviewed by City administration.

Subcommittee Reports

A. Finance –

Carl Geffken was absent. Daphne and Carl did not meet.

B. Personnel –

Eddie Moran was absent. There isn't a policy for review and approval this month.

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

Marisol Torres asked for an update on the boxing program. Daphne stated that she met with Marshall Kauffman at King's Gym at 3rd & Spruce. He offered to donate the equipment and everything he had and continue to run it but he does not have a location. She feels Intercity boxing which is currently located at the Baer Park's field house and King's Gym should merge. It is a perfect fit but location is a problem. They cannot continue to remain at Baer Park. The community really misses the field house at Baer Park.

Marisol asked if we had an incident report in the event that a child is hurt during the summer playground program. Daphne stated that if a child gets hurt an incident report is completed and the parents are made aware of the incident when the child is picked up. Anything involving injury or verbal injury gets written up in an incident report.

Public Comment

Jeffrey Willis came toward the end of the meeting. He introduced himself and stated that he played with the Reading Express and is a football coach at Reading High. He has a format of what he would

like to accomplish in the form of an athletic academy by using sports but using leadership/life skills and doing it through an athletic sense. Daphne stated to call her and they would set up a meeting. There was mention of Donald Taddei Jr.'s best youth football league.

Daphne stated that the basketball playoffs are the week of August 5th which will be held at the Geigle gym.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Donald Taddei, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43PM. John Santoro seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming meetings:

August Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, August 13th at 7:00PM, Pendorf Park Field House

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Swoyer
Recording Secretary