

Reading Recreation Commission  
7:00PM  
3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce Recreation Center  
Minutes of the August 11, 2015 Meeting

The Reading Recreation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at 7:00PM by Carl Geffken.

Daphne took the roll call of members and then the board performed the Pledge of the Allegiance. There were nine of eleven board members present and they included: Christopher Celmer, Christopher Daubert, Carl Geffken, Manuel Guzman, Eddie Moran, John Santoro, Otis Smith and Donald Taddei Jr. James Washington joined the meeting via conference call. Eddie Moran entered the meeting at 7:02PM. The following board members were absent: Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz and David Ruyak. Guests in attendance: JD (John) Turner, Katie Turner, Jon Coles & D Cameron Hafets. Staff in attendance: Daphne Klahr, Executive Director, and Rebecca Swoyer, Business Manager (recording secretary).

**Minutes**

The minutes from the July 14, 2015 meeting were reviewed. There being no questions Carl Geffken stated the minutes were accepted as read.

**New Business**

No new business

**Treasurer's Report**

Daphne discussed the Treasurer's Report. She stated that we received a partial payment from DCNR for the Comprehensive Grant. We have not received the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payment from the Reading School District. Carl noted that the board approved the budget to use \$190,000.00 in reserve if needed. At this time we are only in the reserve about \$77,000.00 and we are still waiting for the school districts 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payment and back wages for Daphne's salary. Carl stated we are looking very good. Daphne reviewed the following reports: Profit and Loss budget vs. actual; Balance Sheet Previous Month Comparison which compared months May and June and June and July; 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. Carl asked if there were any questions. There being none, Manuel Guzman made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Donald Taddei Jr. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

Daphne read the second and final reading of Resolution 2015-4. Resolved that the RRC has agreed to amend the By-laws as set forth on Exhibit A. Daphne also removed the word unanimously. Eddie Moran made a motion to accept Resolution 2015-4. Donald Taddei Jr. seconded the motion. The Board performed a roll call of members: Christopher Celmer – yes; Christopher Daubert – yes; Carl Geffken – yes; Manuel Guzman – no; Eddie Moran – yes; John Santoro – no; Otis Smith – yes; Donald Taddei Jr. – yes; and James Washington – yes. Motion passed 7-2. Daphne will notify both the City and School District letting them know Resolution 2015-4 has been approved and will send the amended By-laws.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Daphne gave a verbal Executive Director's report for June and July.

### **Highlights:**

1. Daphne stated that the Lantern Parade has been held since the 1930's. Our Lantern Parade was held Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at City Park. It was a beautiful evening with a great turn out. All the parks made their Lantern Parade banners and homemade games out of card board for all attending the Lantern Parade to enjoy. Schlegel park swim camp won the Lantern Parade banner contest. Daphne passed out the article "Illuminating end of program presented by kids in City Park" from the Reading Eagle.
2. The Framed: Step into Art reception was held at the Reading Public Museum on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a great event. Daphne passed out the article "Kids from Reading throw themselves into masterpieces" from the Reading Eagle. City playgrounds painted their own interpretations of famous paintings and made them interactive and 3D. Schlegel Park swim camp won the grand prize for their interpretation of Seurats' Pointalism. Schlegel Park swim camp will be taking 20 kids to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. We extended this trip to the other playgrounds as well. They will each take 1 leader and 4 children. They will be doing a virtual scavenger hunt using iPads at the museum.
3. The entire Fightin Phils team came to Baer Park to do a 2 hour clinic with more than 60 of our youth baseball players. Daphne passed out the article "Fightin Phils teach youth players at Reading recreation league clinic" from the Reading Eagle. The baseball program went very well. They had their season ending All Star game at Frist Energy Stadium which was very exciting!
4. COR Tennis held their last Friday Night Lights on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at Hampden Park. This is a great event where they play tennis, games, music provided by DJ Serrano and pot luck food. Daphne passed out the article "Another ace: Tennis program serves youth, families" from the Reading Eagle. She also passed out the article "COR Tennis program continues to excel" from the Reading Eagle which reports the COR 18-Under tennis team won its fourth consecutive USTA Easter Pennsylvania District 18U championship and finished second in the USTA Middle States Sectional Championship. COR Tennis was also highlighted on BCTV.
5. We are having a COR tennis fundraising event on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 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. You will be receiving an invitation to this event.
6. We are receiving excellent press coverage on all our events!
7. We will be partnering with the YMCA and expanding our Chef Sprout program. We are hoping to expand into Northwest School District as well.
8. We are working with the School District with the Girls Leadership program. We currently have this program at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce and Southern Middle School. We are hoping to expand to Northwest Middle School as well.
9. A cleanup will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> with 50 kids from Alvernia College, The City of Reading, Public Works & Berks County Conservancy at the pond in City Park.
10. There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alvernia College cleanup on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> with 500 students. 400 students will be cleaning up 6 city parks which are Reading Iron, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spring, 11<sup>th</sup> & Pike, Baer Park, City Park & 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce. 100 students will be coordinating the clean up effort at Riverside Elementary. This cleanup is scheduled for 3 hours.
11. Our food service program is going into the fall. We currently serve over 750 kids. We also provide meals to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program. Daphne stated that our van is on its last leg. The Reading Fire Department has offered for us to use one of their retired wheelchair transportation vans. We have also requested a donation of a van from Penske.

12. The comprehensive plan will be sent as a preliminary reading in September.
13. We will begin working on the 2016 budget. The preliminary budget will be reading in September and presented for approval at the October board meeting.
14. Daphne stated that we are using our slogan "I Make Reading Look Good" at the 2015 Young Men's Conference held Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Reading Intermediate High School. The conference aims to provide young men with the tools for personal and professional growth in order to empower them to achieve personal and academic success and pursue higher education.
15. Daphne asked, "How do you make Reading Look Good?" Be prepared we will be reaching out to board members, residents, staff, parents, kids, etc. interviewing them on how they make Reading look good. The videos will be posted on our Face Book page. We have shirts in stock and are selling them. We will also be selling the shirts at the Reading High School.

Chris Celmer was not able to attend the last board meeting but he wanted to state that the Youth Field Day was great! He loved that it was held at a Relevant Sports Complex. This event is coordinated by the School District, City of Reading and the RRC.

Eddie Moran also commended Daphne and the staff for getting the kids involved. He asked for an update on the special needs programs. Daphne stated per his request it was researched and presented at the June 9, 2015 workshop. She offered to meet with Eddie and review the information that was presented.

James Washington asked about obtaining a bigger commercial kitchen for the food preparation. Daphne stated that we are more concerned with storage and vehicles at this point.

#### **Public Comment**

JD Turner from Holistic Skate Shop in West Reading PA attended the board meeting. He introduced Katie Turner, Jon Coles and D Cameron Hafets all attending the meeting with him. He asked if the RRC has any allocation of anything for skating. He would like to work with the City to build a concrete skate park in the city. Daphne stated that there is a recommendation in the comprehensive plan for a skate park at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce. She advised him to put a proposal in writing and forward to her. She will review the proposal and then present it to the board. A discussion followed.

Daphne spoke about the current concern at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce with parkour. Parkour is a training discipline using movement that developed from military obstacle course training. Practitioners aim to get from point A to point B in the most efficient way possible without reverting back to point A. This is done using only the human body and the surroundings for propulsion, with a focus on maintaining as much momentum as possible while still remaining safe. Parkour can include obstacle courses, running, climbing, swinging, mantling, vaulting, jumping, rolling, quadrupedal movement and other, similar movements depending on what movement is deemed most suitable for the given situation. Parkour's development from military training gives it some aspects of a non-combative martial art. The RRC is concerned because there is no liability for the parking lot. The people doing this could get hurt. There has also been damage to staff vehicles. The City is aware of the situation. We have filed police reports. We need to have security cameras installed in order for the police to be able to take action. We are short about \$4,000.00 for security cameras. Daphne has applied for a grant for the \$4,000.00.

Daphne reported that this Christmas we will be giving out candy with our sticker and handwritten note from the children to all who have supported us.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Manuel Guzman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53PM. Donald Taddei Jr. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Upcoming meetings:**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Swoyer  
Recording Secretary