

# **Park and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting**

**November 17, 2009**

**5:00 pm**

**Pendora Park Fieldhouse**

## **Meeting Summary**

Committee Members Present – M. Zuber, Recreation Superintendent, O. Smith, R. Epler – 3.

Others Present – S. Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm.

## **Minutes**

Motion was made by Ms. Epler, seconded by Mr. Zuber, to approve the September 15, 2009 minutes as written. Motion carried.

## **Report from Recreation Director**

Mr. Zuber reported:

- The playground season had a great turn out. This was a good summer.
- Playground rentals have decreased. This may be due to the increase in rental fees.
- The projects at Essick and 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spring are moving forward. The design work was completed by DePallo and the contracts for the general contracting work are being finalized. E F Martzall will be recommended as they are the lowest bidder on both projects.
- The project at Northmont Playground is moving forward. The bid for design work is currently out.
- The completion of these three playgrounds will be the final of the 21 City playgrounds. The rehabilitations will be complete within eight years. Barbey Playground will be addressed in 2010. This would bring the rehabilitations full circle.
- The park at Orange & Cherry Sts is 99% complete.
- The tennis program is booming. Enrollment continues to increase.
- Recreation has been receiving maintenance assistance from those mandated to perform community service.
- The rec centers are open. Memberships at all three sites have increased from last year.

## **10 Year Park and Open Space Plan**

Mr. Smith debriefed the committee on the public meeting on November 5. He stated that the meeting was productive and well attended by those with a stake in the parks and playgrounds in Council District 2. He noted his hope for more attendance by the general public.

Mr. Smith questioned contacting Mr. Joel Brigel, principal at Southern Middle School, as a contact regarding School District participation in the youth survey. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained the process needed to be followed regarding School District participation. Mr. Smith noted that it may be best to do the entire district together, rather than break it into Council districts. He noted that more youth participation in the process is needed.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that she worked with Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz and Recreation staff to invite organizations with specific interests in District 2. She also invited the principals of the schools within District 2. She will continue this practice for future public meetings.

Mr. Smith noted that the next public meeting will occur in February in Council District 1. The exact date and time will be announced once it is finalized. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will work with Councilor Acosta to schedule the meeting to ensure his participation. Mr. Zuber suggested that this meeting be held at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce Rec Center.

## **Old Business**

Mr. Smith informed the Committee about his annual report to Council on October 12. He stated that he used the opportunity to introduce Council to the 10 Year Park and Open Space Plan planning and to stress the importance of recreational opportunities. He noted his hope that recreation not be outsourced.

## **New Business**

- 2010 Budget Implications

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the positions held by she and Mr. Zuber were eliminated from the 2010 position ordinance and funding was removed from the budget. She further explained that City Council found additional funding and has reinstated the positions. In addition, temporary recreation staff funding was increased by \$50,000. Council passed these ordinances on November 16 and they are now waiting for approval or veto by the Mayor.

Mr. Zuber reported that the temporary wages line item was drastically reduced in the recreation budget for 2010. He noted that the rest of his budget will be workable. He stated that recreation will continue to offer quality programs. He noted his willingness to solicit donations to supplement the budget.

*Note: Temporary Wages was decreased due to poor attendance at the daytime playground programs. Next summer, 4 – 6 daytime programs will operate city-wide.*

- Reading School District

Mr. Smith noted that the City needs to begin cooperating with the School District regarding parks and recreation. He noted that most surrounding townships already work together.

The draft letter to Dr. Chapman was reviewed by the Committee. Ms. Katzenmoyer was directed to add the contact phone number and to include the planning for the 10 Year Park and Open Space Plan to the letter.

Mr. Zuber and Ms. Katzenmoyer noted their willingness to assist Mr. Smith with facilitating this meeting.

Mr. Smith noted his hope that new members of City Council and the School Board would come to the meeting to initiate conversations. He noted that the focus of the meeting needs to be the youth of the City. The increased opportunities for recreation can help to decrease gang participation, graffiti, and truancy problems. They will also increase participation in District sports programs.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted

*Shelly Katzenmoyer*  
Deputy City Clerk

Issues for follow up:

- Lantern Parade - March
- Volleyball
- Skateboard Park
- Dog Parks – Pendorra, Angelica, City Park
- Jogging trails
- Checkerboard tables
- Adult exercise/yoga
- Hockey – roller/deck
- Mural program
- 10 Year Park and Open Space Plan
- Survey distribution to RSD
- First Aid/CPR training – March
- Meeting with Reading City Council and Reading School Board