

Park and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting
June 9, 2009
5:30 pm
Pendora Park Pavilion

Meeting Summary

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

Others Present – S. Katzenmoyer, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Minutes

The minutes from the April 21, 2009 and May 19, 2009 were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Epler, seconded by Mr. Zuber, to approve the April and May minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Report from Recreation Director

Mr. Zuber reported:

- The PARC has been making small steps. He requested the members remain patient and continue their work to move forward. He stated his belief that if the RSD athletic director becomes involved it will make a large difference.
- The recreation centers are closed to encourage attendance at the summer programs. Maintenance, painting, and cleaning will occur during the closure.
- Summer camp will occur at 3rd & Spruce.
- The playground program begins on Monday, June 15.
- The revenue from Schlegel Pool is slightly behind this time last year. Weather was cited as the reason. The goal is to raise \$60,000 this summer. Thanks were expressed to Matt Lubas for his hard work and diligence.
- Baer Park grand opening will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at 10:30 am. PARC members were encouraged to attend.
- 100% funding for the rehabilitation at 3rd & Spring and Essick playgrounds has been secured. The delays have been caused by internal issues at DCNR.
- Northmont and Barbey playground rehabilitation will be planned in the near future.
- Two articles printed in the USTA Net Play magazine were reviewed. These articles will shed national light on the success of the Reading tennis program.

Mr. Smith stated that articles such as these should be seen by those who continue to support reducing recreation funding. He stated that these articles were produced by a non-political third party. It was suggested that the youth featured be contacted to testify

before Council if necessary at budget hearings. Mr. Zuber agreed stated that the Reading recreation programs have a positive impact on youth and the community.

10 Year Park and Open Space Plan

Mr. Smith suggested that one new program begin in 2009. Mr. Zuber stated that the playground program begins June 15.

Mr. Smith suggested distributing a questionnaire to playground leaders asking for their input on programming. Mr. Zuber stated that he would distribute the questionnaires and that the members of the PARC would review them at their next meeting.

Questions will be:

- How can the program be improved?
- What activities do you feel are suited to your playground?
- What age groups will benefit most from these programs at your site?
- What training do you feel would benefit playground leaders?
- What joint activity would you suggest for City-wide participation? (Ex. Carnival, Field Day)

Ms. Epler stated the importance of having answers be age specific to be sure that all age groups are included.

Mr. Smith noted his belief that the PARC needed to move forward on the Plan. He stated that it would be detrimental to wait until the Committee membership was filled. He suggested holding public meetings quarterly beginning October 2009. He suggested dividing the City by Council districts and inviting the Councilors to their respective meetings to hear public comment.

Mr. Smith stated that he will be attending the Council Public Works Committee meeting on June 16 to address the PARC playground review and evaluation. He will present the findings. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz would also like to address the schedule of maintenance and grass cutting at parks and playgrounds. Mr. Zuber stated that the evaluation is a good product and the results show that the playgrounds are in good condition but require better maintenance.

Mr. Smith stated his belief that more youth and temporary workers be utilized for maintenance during the spring/summer months.

Ms. Epler stated that recycling cans should be available at parks and playgrounds.

Mr. Smith called the Committee's attention back to the Plan. He suggested planning the meetings at outdoor venues during warm weather and indoors during cold/inclement weather.

Ms. Katzenmoyer compiled a list of parks and playgrounds by Council districts. It was decided that District 3 & 4 and District 5 & 6 be combined due their close proximity and the limited number of parks and playgrounds within each. The Committee decided to hold meetings as follows:

- October 2009 – Mineral Spring Park
- January 2010 – Oakbrook Olivet
- April 2010 – Hillside Playground
- June 2010 – 6th & Amity

These meetings will be in place of the regularly scheduled PARC meeting for those months. This will allow Committee members and staff to compile the results from each meeting and have time to debrief before the next public meeting.

Mr. Smith encouraged all members of the PARC to attend these meetings as able so that members can hear the public's comments first hand. Mr. Zuber suggested that Charlie Jones, Kyle Zeiber and Council President Spencer be invited to attend all the meetings.

Mr. Smith suggested distributing a questionnaire for the public to complete regarding Reading recreation programs and any suggestions for future offerings. Ms. Katzenmoyer will begin working on this questionnaire.

Ms. Katzenmoyer informed the Committee that the Mayor has been contemplating adding a dog park to Angelica Park due to issues with dogs and their owners at this park. She updated the Mayor that the PARC had also been discussing this issue and suggested that dog parks be added at Pendora and City Park.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

The next meeting of the PARC will be held on Tuesday, August 4 at 5:30 pm at Pendora.

Respectfully submitted

Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk

Issues for follow up:

- Lantern Parade
- Volleyball
- Skateboard Park
- Dog Parks – Pendora, Angelica, City Park
- Jogging trails
- Checkerboard tables
- Adult exercise/yoga
- Hockey – roller/deck
- Mural program
- Playground leader questionnaire
- Public meeting questionnaire