Reading Recreation Commission

Mission Statement: to provide a mechanism to adequately and efficiently maintain community recreation services and facilities and to organize, manage and supervise recreational and educational programs, with a primary focus and emphasis on programs for youth, within the political boundaries of the City and the School District

December 13, 2011
Reading Recreation Commission Meeting

Comment - This evening at 7:00 PM, unfortunately only three members were present. Those members were made aware that some members were attending an important Board meeting within the school district facility; still others ran into last minute conflicts. As was stated prior to the start of the meeting, everyone who is involved with this very important effort, is a very busy person. Thus, this understood can I please appeal to the group in this way. Whenever possible, try to get to Board meetings about ten minutes prior to commencement. If a conflict arises, please notify the Chair that you cannot attend (common courtesy), and if you now feel that you canot calendar one Tuesday each month (18 hours per year) to help support and provide for recreational opportunities, please let it be known so that a resident with less commitment can replace you. Thanks for listening !

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM with the following members present: John Santoro, Marisol Torres, Mike Schorn, Bill Hall, James Washington and Superintendent Miles. Also present were Frank Denbowski and Matt Lubas.

The MINUTES of the November 15, 2011 meeting were approved without dissent on a motion from Mr. Hall and Mr. Santoro.

Next, John Santoro gave an update on the Executive Director Search. An earlier meeting of the Selection Committee pared the applications from 27 to 5. Two of the five will be interviewed by Sue Landes via phone conversations; the other three selectees are from Berks County, Lititz and Whitehall communities. These candidates will be interviewed on Monday, December 19th. Jim Washington added clarity to the process, telling the Commission that several candidates either didn't have the educational backgroud, or they lacked real recreational experience.

A lengthly discussion of Benefits for our two full-time employees followed. Frank clarified the City's position, offering COBRA payments as a part of the $ 488,000 contribution. Matt spoke about the anxiety factor of not knowing what was going to happen in two weeks. Jim proposed that Matt and Heather's salary and benefits to continue status quo until June 30th. By that time an Executive Director should be on-board, and the Commission will have more opportunity to review and resolve a fair and equitable package. Jim Washington moved and Marisol Torres seconded a motion to allow a temporary bridge agreement to compensate our employees.

A discussion on the necessity to obtain an EIN number was discussed. This is currently being ushered through Congressman Holden's office. Hopefully,

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A healthy discussion on awarding a service agreement to ADP Payroll Services took place. Mr.Santoro questioned whether legal opinions are necessary to proceed. Jim stated that because of the timing involved here, we should seek legal advice for future contractual decision-making. Frank stated that we should operate under a temporary procurement status. He said that this would be the cleanest way to operate. ADP writes the checks and sends an invoice to the Commission for reimbursement.In speaking with the representative from ADP this AM, he confirmed that there is no contract that commits the Commission for any length of time. Also, the company fronts the money for the payroll and then invoices the Commission for payment.

Frank then spoke about possibly utilizing another non-profit entity, RBI, to hold the Commission's money, if we are not able to set-up a business checking account in time. Another lengthly discussion followed, and the Board agreed, without dissent, that this avenue could be used if we are unable to meet our financial obligations due to a procedural snag. Jim noted that since we don't have officers in place, developing a formal Resolution would be impossible at this time.

Mr. Santoro suggested that we hold a special meeting for the purpose of electing officers for 2012, so that legally, business can be conducted. Mr. Hall and Mr. Santoro are going to make contacts to see if anyone is interested in doing pro-bono work for the Commission. Mr. Santoro will attempt to get an attorney present at our next meeting to advise us regarding the use of taxpayer's dollars.

Discussions on temporary emergency procedures on agenda items was rehashed. Marisol Torres and Mr. Hall moved that we use these processes until a more solid method is implemented.

Future Meetings (NEW): *TUESDAY, JANUARY 03rd at 6:00 PM in RSD Library*
(Election of Officers)
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th (CHANGE) @ 7:00 PM RSD Library
*(1st Meeting of 2012) ******

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 PM

Mike Schorn, Commission Liaison