



CITY COUNCIL

Standards of Living Committee

Monday, August 17, 2015
Meeting Report

Committee Members Attending: D. Sterner, C. Daubert (Co-Chair), S. Marmarou

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer, R. Johnson, C. Snyder

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 pm by Mr. Sterner.

I. Hillside MOU

Ms. Snyder stated that the Law office has recommended that this be a lease agreement rather than an MOU. She stated that both the City and the organization would like guarantees for several years. She stated that an MOU can be terminated at any time.

Ms. Snyder stated that the organization would like exclusive use of Hillside from fall through January annually. She stated that the organization would have access to the concession stand during the event to fundraise. She stated that the organization would submit an audit to the City annually and that all funds raised would be donated to the RHS JROTC program.

Mr. Sterner questioned how the lease agreement would affect the City's costs. Ms. Snyder stated that the City would continue paying the electricity costs as in the past and that this would be the City's contribution to the event. She stated that the event will now be advertised.

Mr. Sterner stated that the Recreation Commission is concerned about volunteers having background checks to comply with the new laws. Ms. Snyder questioned backgrounds in the past.

All present explained the new background check requirements. Ms. Snyder stated that only volunteers with direct contact with the youth would need background checks.

Mr. Sterner questioned who would be coordinating the event. Mr. Johnson stated that the Christmas on the Mountain organization will be coordinating everything.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the City would be assisting with set up. Ms. Snyder stated that the lease agreement will state that the City is not assisting with set up.

Mr. Sterner thanked Ms. Snyder for informing the committee that an MOU can be terminated at any time.

Ms. Snyder questioned if the lease agreement would be approved by Council ordinance or resolution. Ms. Katzenmoyer referred the question to the Law office.

Ms. Snyder expressed the belief that if an ordinance is required, the set up will begin late this year due to agenda deadlines and the required layover period. She suggested a placeholder be added to the August 24 agenda.

II. Greenhouse - PermaCultivate

Mr. Johnson stated that the signed MOU was located so this item is complete.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained the potential conflict of interest if Mr. Twyman is elected to City Council and is the primary signatory on the MOU.

Mr. Johnson suggested that this be addressed after the election.

III. Former Mineral Spring Hotel - East Ends

Mr. Johnson stated that the lease agreement expired in 2012. He stated that the club is in considerable arrears having only made two lease payments in 2009. He stated that this is a remote location and that the building will be destroyed if left vacant.

Mr. Sterner questioned the use of City funds on the building. Mr. Johnson stated that it is minimal.

Mr. Johnson stated that if the lease is broken and the club vacates the building will be left unused. Mr. Sterner suggested another organization use the building.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he knows several organizations that are interested in using the building.

Mr. Sterner suggested that Mr. Marmarou give Mr. Johnson contact information for those interested in using the building.

Mr. Johnson stated that the City will continue to research the agreement and will begin discussions with the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Sterner suggested updating the lease agreement with the current conditions but making it month to month so that another tenant can move in quickly.

Mr. Daubert noted the need to inform East Ends that there is the potential loss of lease.

Mr. Sterner stated that the agreement has expired so it is null and void. Ms. Snyder stated that notice may still need to be given.

Mr. Sterner stated that it is time to move this forward. He stated that East Ends cannot continue breaking the terms of the lease. Ms. Snyder stated that she will discuss this issue with Mr. Younger.

IV. Fire Tower – Pagoda Skyline

Mr. Johnson stated that he has acquired information relative to the land around the tower but no legal documents regarding the tower itself.

Mr. Sterner questioned if Lower Alsace needed to be involved in this conversation. Ms. Snyder expressed the belief that they do not as the City owns the tower and the land around it.

Mr. Marmarou suggested that the City check with Lower Alsace to see if they have an agreement regarding the tower. He described a police issue that occurred on that property. Ms. Snyder stated that the City is the property owner so any agreement must be with the City and not with Lower Alsace.

Mr. Sterner questioned who maintains the property. Mr. Johnson stated that Pagoda Skyline performs much maintenance. He stated that the City does capital improvements as it is able.

Mr. Sterner noted the need for a written agreement with Pagoda Skyline. Ms. Snyder agreed with the need to memorialize the terms.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need for organizations who have agreements with the City not to believe the agreement gives them ownership rights.

V. Baer Park Fieldhouse - Inner City Boxing Club

Ms. Snyder stated that the Inner City Boxing Club had a word of mouth agreement with former Mayor McMahon. She stated that there was a line item for this organization in past City budgets and purchases were made. She stated that there was concern that the Ayalas were no longer able to run the program and that others were running it on their behalf.

Ms. Snyder stated that Marshall Kauffman has agreed to run the program. She stated that King's Gym was chosen as the name of his gym as an acronym for Kids In Need of Guidance. She stated that the staff is great with the kids and that all background clearances have been done.

Mr. Marmarou stated that there was no access to the concession stand for other groups using the park and that the Inner City Boxing Club had changed the locks. Ms. Snyder explained that the main problem was access to the restrooms. She stated that Mr. Kauffman has agreed to open the restrooms to others and that the City is in the process of creating a formal written agreement which will include an annual audit.

Ms. Snyder stated that this is not the ideal location for a boxing program but that the City does not have another available location. She stated that she has spoken with the School District about locating the program in one of their buildings but they will not commit long term. She stated that she would welcome ideas.

Ms. Snyder expressed the belief that as a partner in the Recreation Commission that the School District should commit the use of the buildings for recreational programs.

Mr. Sterner stated that there are other boxing programs located in the City. Ms. Snyder agreed but stated that they only allow youth of a higher caliber to participate.

Mr. Daubert suggested that this be discussed at the next Recreation Commission meeting. He stated that the Commission was told in the past that there could be no permanent location for the program inside a District building. He stated that he will request that they look again.

Ms. Snyder stated that Thomas Ford Elementary School is not being used in any way at this time.

Mr. Sterner questioned the issue of having a polling location in the fieldhouse. Mr. Johnson stated that this is not possible while boxing is located there.

Ms. Snyder stated that the restrooms are not on the main level. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this is also the case at the Pendora Park fieldhouse.

Ms. Snyder questioned why the pool could not be located in the nearby elementary school. Mr. Johnson described the problems with having members of the general public in school buildings under the new security laws.

VI. Other Matters

- Public Swimming Pools

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the City would be interested in acquiring additional swimming pools. Ms. Snyder stated that the City did look at acquiring Hillside and East Reading. She suggested that this be a topic for the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Marmarou stated that College Manor Pool is struggling and only has 50 member families. Mr. Johnson stated that swimming pools are not currently used in the way they were in the past.

Mr. Daubert stated that he will begin these discussions with the Recreation Commission. He stated that the Schlegel Pool does very well.

- Agenda topics

Mr. Johnson stated that the City is entering budget season and that he will have less time to devote to agenda topics. He stated that his progress will slow on the agreements. Ms. Snyder suggested wrapping up the issues before the budget meetings begin.

Mr. Daubert suggested a progress update at the next meeting. Ms. Snyder stated that the update will include goals and paths to those goals.

Mr. Daubert requested that no items appear on the agenda unless there is new information to be shared.

Mr. Daubert expressed the belief that Mr. Kauffman will run the boxing program well.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk