

## MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

September 16, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on September 16, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Waterfront Administration Building, 705 East Pete Rose Way with the following members present: Mmes. Denno and Ingram and Messrs. Smith, Moeddel, and Fultz, with Rev. Smith presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Melzer, Cox, Shannon, Watson, Simmons, Williams and Willis and Messrs. Merrifield, Thomas, Koopman, Carlisle, and Celsor.

### MINUTES

Ms. Ingram moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2008 Public Recreation Commission as submitted.

Motion passed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Incident Report dated 8/20/08

Dr. Merrifield reviewed an incident report from our College Hill Center regarding an incident where our staff excelled in their handling of a potentially dangerous situation. This item was received for filing.

#### Note from Kim Wanstrath to Teresa Graham of the Evanston Community Center

Ms. Wanstrath expressed her gratitude to the summer camp staff at Evanston for the care, supervision and love her son received through the camp. This item was received for filing.

#### Letter from The Ohio River Way

The Ohio River Way, Inc. and Paddlefest donated \$1,000.00 to Vision Trek in appreciation of all the wonderful things CRC does for the youth of Cincinnati. This item was received for filing.

Email Received from Mary Mount Regarding Lifeguards at the Hartwell Pool

Mary Mount emailed Doug Carlisle and Steve LeConey to comment on the work ethics and professionalism of the Lifeguards at the Hartwell Pool. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Larry Kellam, President, The First Tee

Letter of appreciation received from Larry Kellam thanking CRC for all we do for The First Tee of Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation received a contribution in the amount of \$2,596.64 for helping to make the first annual Golf Ball Drop For Kids fundraiser a success. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Monna Beckford of the Evanston Community Council

Dr. Merrifield received a letter of thanks from the Evanston Community Council for being the guest speaker at the Evanston Back to School Jam. This item was received for filing.

Email from Lynn Melzer Relaying Phone Call Message

Lynn Melzer emailed Dr. Merrifield to inform him of a phone call she received from Dale Rieman concerning Caldwell Park. Mr. Rieman wanted someone to be aware of the outstanding job that the maintenance crew has been doing at the park. This item was received for filing.

Email from Mark Sickmiller of Mt. Adams

Kathy Shannon received an email from Mark Sickmiller to tell her how much he and his wife (and dog) enjoy Sawyer Point & the Friendship Park and how well it is maintained. This item was received for filing.

Email from Nola Clarke to Kathy Shannon

Ms. Clarke had emailed Kathy Shannon prior to the fireworks with seating concerns. After the fireworks she email Ms. Shannon to let her know how well her set up for the fireworks went and to thank Ms. Shannon for her efforts. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Kathleen Tyler of the In GOD'S Hands Christian Youth Center

Mike Thomas received a letter from Ms. Tyler thanking him and the crew that takes care of the Tot-Lot Park in Kennedy Heights. She advised that they have given superior service and care to the park. This item was received for filing.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nothing at this time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Appointment of Superintendent of Administration//Finance

Dr. Merrifield announced that he is recommending Steve Pacella for the position of Superintendent of Administration/Finance. Mr. Pacella has been involved with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission through our Golf Course Management for more than a decade. He is an excellent communicator and will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to CRC. Mr. Pacella will be overseeing Human Resources and Information Technology as well as our Finance Division. Dr. Merrifield advised that he has made this recommendation to the City's Human Resources Department and to the City Manager. Mr. Pacella's scheduled start date is October 5, 2008.

Mr. Pacella stated that he is looking forward to working with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Rev. Smith and Mr. Moeddel welcomed Mr. Pacella.

NRPA Conference – October 14-18, 2008

Dr. Merrifield and Mr. Pacella will be attending the NRPA Conference in Baltimore next month.

Rev. Smith asked if Cincinnati was going to be hosting this conference soon. Dr. Merrifield stated that the next couple of conferences have been spoken for but we hope to bring it to Cincinnati soon.

Update on Phase I of the Program Facility Business/Master Plan

Dr. Merrifield gave an update and provided Commissioners with a draft of the Request for Proposals for Planning/Research Services for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. He advised that we have received 3 proposals, will

hopefully be engaged in the process by mid-October and have it completed shortly after the first of the year.

There was much discussion regarding the Program Facility Business/Master Plan. Ms. Ingram asked what the plan timeline is. She said that she would like to have this at the next meeting along with the Committee's selection. The Committee members are Rev. Smith, Mr. Koopman, and Mr. Thomas.

#### New Community Center Directors

Ms. Simmons introduced the new Community Center Directors. They are Barbara Bennett – Winton Hills; Teresa Graham – McKie; Denise Hazel – Price Hill; and Heather Murawski – Mt. Washington. Don Folden (not present) will be the new CCD at Evanston.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 2009 Operating Budget Submission and 2009 Budget Exception Request

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded Ms. Denno, to approve the 2009 Operating Budget Submission and the 2009 Budget Exception Request as submitted. Ms. Ingram voted against this item.

Motion passed.

##### Sawyer Point Partnership with Montgomery Inn

Dr. Merrifield advised that he and Ms. Shannon had an informal conversation with Dean Gregory of the Montgomery Inn Boathouse about the possibility of a partnership with him in the future. The area being discussed is the skating rink. The area has not been productive in the past year years.

Ms. Shannon stated that there is always a need for space to have receptions, weddings, etc. This is an option we are looking into.

Ms. Ingram suggested that this be done within the scope of the Business/Master Plan. Mr. Moeddel stated that we need to make sure the public benefits from this opportunity.

### Marvin Lewis Park Improvement Proposal

Sharon Lewis of the Marvin Lewis Fund, Hometown Huddle Project, was present to give an overview of the proposal to create a partnership to make improvements to the College Hill park area. The dedication will be on October 7, 2008.

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the proposal of the Marvin Lewis Fund, Hometown Huddle Project, to create a partnership to make improvements to the College Hill park area.

Motion passed.

### Field Trips

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the requests for Field Trips as submitted.

Motion passed.

## PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

### Capital Improvements Bid for the Remodeling of the Existing Concourse Fountain into a Sprayground

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to approve the low bid of Langenheim & Thompson (General Contractor) - \$595,084.00; Alternate GC-1 Colored Concrete - \$10,000.00; Alternate GC-2 UV Disinfection System - \$26,000.00, Assignment Fee – 5% - \$3,627.10; HGC Construction - \$20,000.00; B & J Electrical Company - \$50,892.00; Alternate EC-1-UV Disinfection System - \$1,650.00; for the remodeling of the existing Concourse Fountain into a Sprayground. (Total bid - \$707,253.10)

Motion passed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made that an Executive Session of the Recreation Commission be held pursuant to Section 121.22(G) of the Ohio Revised Code for the charges or complaints against employees to consider the dismissal, discipline

or demotion of a public employee. Roll call: Ms. Denno, yes; Mr. Fultz, yes; Rev. Smith, yes; Mr. Moeddel, yes; Ms. Ingram, yes.

The Commission came out of Executive Session and the General Session resumed.

Personnel Action

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Denno, to approve the Directors Designee's recommendation of a penalty of one hundred sixty hour (160) suspension without pay for Mr. Bryan Moore, Community Center Director, for Failure of Good Behavior and Neglect of Duty and additional recommendation that Mr. Moore receive a PEAP (Public Employees Assistance Program) Referral. Ms. Ingram voted against this motion.

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Denno moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned.

---

Kazava Smith, President

---

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D., Director

/kss