

Park and Recreation Advisory Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes – June 15th, 2016

DRAFT

Present: Lola Skolnik, Ken Blue, Betty Sonneveldt and Lester Whitmer.

Visitors: Lauren Cummings and Jake Chestnut

Absent: Kelly Ivy, Marc Siegel and Michael Lee

Staff: Julie McHale

Council Liaison: Mayor Emmet Jordan unable to attend due to meeting conflict

- Lola Skolnik called the meeting to order at 7:35
- Motion to approve May minutes made by Lola and seconded by Betty. Minutes approved 4-0
- Recreation Department Updates given by Julie McHale
 - ✓ Grad Night was a real success. The numbers were lower than previous years. 400 attended. The numbers used to be about 525 and have been getting lower. All that attended had a great time.
 - ✓ An RFP went out for a marketing and communication audit. Julie developed an audit that went out to seven different agencies. The audit is a marketing plan to make recommendation just for recreation.
 - ✓ Greenbelt Day Weekend was a success with many people participating in events throughout the City.
 - ✓ There were only 11 kids that participated in the triathlon. Lauren Cummings suggested moving the kids' triathlon to around the Labor Day Weekend or later to reach the summer camp kids, allow for more training time, and not interfere with school.
 - ✓ Betty added that when her children were young there were a lot of activities for children at the Labor Day Festival (diaper derby, pie eating contest, egg rolling, fast pitch, etc.) that are no longer there and a children's triathlon would be a good addition to the Festival.
 - ✓ Julie said there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the fitness track at Schrom Hills Park. Ken said he has been to the park and seen the track. Julie said there had been problems with three pieces of the equipment and that it had been touch and go to get repairs completed before the ribbon cutting ceremony.

- ✓ Betty reported that she had attended the Naturalization Ceremony at the Community Center on Greenbelt Day weekend. It was very inspiring.
- ✓ Julie said the next event is July 4th. The Drum Circle will be at the Lake before the fireworks.
- ✓ Summer camps starts Monday, June 20th. There is a transition of camp directors. The camp numbers are rising. Circus Camp is sold out, Camp Encore is sold out, two sessions of Creative Kids Camp sessions are sold out and Youth on the Go is still enrolling.
- Contribution Group (new guidelines/policies) work session with City Council on Monday, July 25th
 - ✓ Lola asked Julie when PRAB will see the new Contribution Group guidelines
 - ✓ Julie responded that PRAB would probably get them after the July 25th Council Work Session on new guidelines and policies.
 - ✓ Council may take votes out entire advisory boards and put them in Committees
 - ✓ There are three kinds of contributions.
 - ✓ Julie said that any new procedures would begin FY2018.
- Review of the 2016 Buddy Attic Park Report
 - ✓ Ken stated that there was not a revised report – he has not had time. A discussion followed.
 - ✓ Lola said there is a Department of Recreation and a Department of Public Works. Lola reminded PRAB members that PRAB has recommended many times to Council that there should be Parks and Recreation Department.
 - ✓ Lola stated that with the current Lake report that methodology should be before findings and that the methodology section should be moved. Lola also recommended that the report focus just on the Lake Park, and if it proves useful, the City could use it as a template for other parks.
 - ✓ Ken went to the Report Card that he Created and took items that had failing grades. Ken thinks the Lake is not a “C”, but is really a “B”
 - ✓ Lola stated that the scale we are using should be explained. One question was how do you take pass-fail and turn it into letter grades? When PRAB started the review of the Lake Park Master Plan, items in the plan that were not being done got a fail.
 - ✓ PRAB members agreed that the Lake doesn’t need an overall grade – each item needs an assessment.
 - ✓ Betty said that while all items not in compliance with the Master Plan need to be addressed, the focus should be on items that have a chance of being addressed and fixed.
 - ✓ Lola suggested that report be put in bullet form and that instead of park scores give a breakdown of what it is that is being scored. Lola likes the idea of a score

card. Although PRAB has been working on this for three years, we have to keep at it. We need a revised Lake Park Master Plan.

- ✓ Richard Fink, Superintendent of Parks, wants to write the new master plan which includes a qualification of what was in the original plan and how non-compliance interferes with park use for all. A comprehensive plan is 5 years out.
 - ✓ Lola thinks the report card document has merit, but the current document is too dense.
 - ✓ We should follow the bulleted format and we will have something to send to Public Works.
 - ✓ Ken suggested we walk the Lake for a 2016 update. Ken also reported that motion sensor lights have been installed at the Braden Field entrance to the Lake.
 - ✓ Lola suggested an article be written for the News Review by the Planning Dept. to inform the public about all the work going on at the Lake with the WSSC work, the dam repair, and the dredging of the fore bays.
 - ✓ Ken said we need to have our own report by September. Lola stated there is a Master Plan in place and if there is not a new one, then the existing document needs to be adhered to.
- Review of the Dam Repair
 - ✓ Julie reported that Council is currently reviewing 4 bids.
 - ✓ A contract will be awarded this summer.
 - ✓ Work will begin after July 4th
 - ✓ All bids were higher than budgeted so money will need to be found to make up the difference
 - New Business
 - ✓ Ken commented about smoking in Greenbelt Center.
 - ✓ Julie said that signage was put up, but recommended that metal signs be put up because the current signage is just being ignored.
 - ✓ The issue is one of enforcement. Rules without enforcement are not viable.
 - Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.