

PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2011

Present: Lola Skolnik, Chairperson
Betty Sonneveldt, Les Whitmer, Chris Husker, Michael Lee

Staff: Julie McHale, Recreation Director

Council Liaison: Leta Mach, Councilmember

Excused: Ken Blue, Marc Siegel

Absent: Jay Shah, Kelly Ivy, John Winfrey

- Meeting called to order at 7:35pm. It was stated that PRAB members could not approve previous meeting minutes and/or vote on anything of significance due to lack of a quorum for the second month in a row.
 - Councilmember Leta Mach Updates -
 - Leta reported on-
 - **BARC gate:** There were over 25 people at the Council meeting on 10/17 to hear what BARC had to say.
 - According to Leta, it was determined that BARC and the City could certainly come to an agreement about the gate due to the resident support and the history between BARC and the City.
 - The agreement will state something to the effect that the gate will be redone so that there is a pedestrian gateway that will be open during the daylight on weekends; also the gate itself will be open daily throughout the week and closed at the same time as the traffic gate. PRAB suggested that the pedestrian gate be closed at dusk to allow for seasonal changes.
 - The history of the City with BARC was also discussed at some length among the members of PRAB and Ms. Mach.
 - Recreation Director updates-
 - Julie discussed the success of **FallFest** - a beautiful day and a lot of participants. Groups who were there fundraising seemed to sell out of what they brought to the event.
 - All of Council was there to enjoy the event.
 - 75th Anniversary Committee was also there and City Manager, Mike McLaughlin sat at their table marketing the celebration for part of the day.
 - Betty Sonneveldt noted that the Senior Softball was fund raising again this year by raffling off a big screen television.
 - Betty also said that Babe Ruth sold 650 pieces of meat and actually had to go out and get more supplies to meet the demands.
 - Julie also mentioned the City health fair (with free health assessments available) coming up on 10/27 and encouraged members to attend.
 - Julie spoke about the **Costume Contest and Parade** scheduled at the Roosevelt Center Mall on 10/28/11.
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- Julie also spoke about the Recreation Department ‘teambuilding’ workshops to include the session on ‘Recreation Gets Active’ topic which includes ‘hands-on’ training on dealing with aggressive persons and is scheduled on 10/26
- Recognition Group Applications - Greenbelt Community Development Corporation and Greenstems, Inc.
 - Greenbelt Community Development Corporation request for Recognition Group Status. Barbara Simon, Chair
 - Julie stated that the application was submitted in June. However, PRAB was unable to review the request until September (due to summer recess), but did not vote on the request in September due to a lack of a quorum. Unfortunately, no quorum was present this month either.
 - Julie and other committee members tried to explain the purpose of the group and after a lengthy discussion, Chairperson, Lola Skolnik requested that we invite Barbara Simon and others to the November meeting to try and clarify the group’s application.
 - Ms. Mach wanted to know if members knew where Ms. Simon received the ‘numbers’ that were listed on the application, but PRAB members did not know how the numbers on her application were formulated.
 - Lola Skolnik and the board are requesting that the group clarify their ‘mission statement’ and ‘objectives’
 - Julie agreed to call Ms. Simon and let her know the status and ask if she is able to attend the November 16, 2011 PRAB meeting.
 - Betty Sonneveldt also mentioned that the group was advertising for their first meeting on Saturday, October 22 at the Community Center and wanted to know how this was possible if PRAB had not approved them yet.
 - After further research, Julie discovered that a permit was submitted and appropriate payment was given by Barbara Simon for this meeting.
 - Greenstems, Inc. request for Recognition Group Application - George Boyce, Eva Fallon
 - Betty - described the purpose of this group and stated that George is the head mentor for Robotics Club at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), helping with the programming, starting programming club at NASA, putting together projects at different levels of complexity. He has micro-controllers just sitting in a closet that ERHS cannot use. ERHS does not have any classroom material to teach the material and are asking Mr. Boyce to assist in developing curriculum/program. The Technology students can then develop a program for kids after school or teach this program on a community level.
 - All of the members at the September meeting as well as the members who attended tonight’s meeting, agreed unanimously to recommend Greenstem, Inc for Recognition Group status
 - This group was very clear in their objectives to serve Greenbelt and also their needs (which will just be a classroom to begin with) so the Chairperson felt comfortable taking an overall vote of 7-0 to approve this application and write up the report to Council.
- Follow up from September’s meeting regarding information on having movies at the City owned movie theater
 - Kelly Ivy suggested that the Recreation Department utilize the movie theatre since the City owns it. He suggested Saturday matinees for kids and movies on

Schools Out days, winter camp, etc. He inquired whether it could also be used for meeting space. These types of programs could bring in revenue for the City and he didn't understand why we were not using it for programming as mentioned above.

- Julie stated that unfortunately she overlooked this item and will request information on the topic and get back to the board.
 - Further discussion on the movie theater took place and Julie stated that Recreation has tried to work with Movie Theater several times and has had no success
 - Ms. Mach also stated some difficulties that other groups have had with the theater's management.
 - Ms. Mach stated that although the City owns the theater, the theater has a manager who runs the day-to-day operations.
 - The overall feeling from the Board was that the fact that the City owns the theater SHOULD give them some flexibility to show movies for children during the day and on weekends when the theater is not in use.
 - Julie promised to look into this further and get back to the board.
- Other discussions that took place included:
 - Betty: Franklin Park has evicted over 700 people and despite the lost revenue for FP they are leaving these units vacant until they are fixed up to the new standards.
 - Ms. Mach agreed with this statement and stated that the Management at Franklin Park and the City are really trying to improve the properties.
 - Lola mentioned the small crowd at the Advisory Board dinner on October 9 and most of the Board responded with the consensus that having this dinner over the Columbus Day weekend (which is a long weekend for many) means that many people are unable to come.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2011

Respectfully submitted on 10/24/11 by: Julie McHale