

Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, August 12, 2008

Tana Babbitt in attendance
Robert Benton in attendance
Len Cidado in attendance
Kathleen DeGrandis not in attendance
Charlie Hammond in attendance
Mike McDonald, Chairman in attendance
Elizabeth Nikiciuk in attendance

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:02PM

Review and Vote on July Minutes

Bob motioned to accept, Charlie seconded, all in favor, July minutes accepted.

Old Business

Jennifer reported that the Olmsted/Richardson playground construction is underway. Mike shared some photos of the progress that has been made so far. Jennifer said the Olmsted PAC has approved reimbursing the Recreation Department for the additional costs incurred to cut the extra thick asphalt. She is still waiting to hear back from the Richardson PAC about reimbursement. Elizabeth suggested we submit a letter to the PACs in September detailing our reimbursement and playground maintenance expectations. Jennifer will draft the letter and email it to the Commission for approval.

Jennifer is still working on a plaque of appreciation for the Snelgrove family. Mike suggested posting a link to the Snelgrove family's next fundraising event on our website.

Quotes for fence work at the NEG

Jennifer presented three quotes to fence the entire perimeter of the playground and tee ball field behind the NEG. This was based on the suggestion of Bob Carroll, owner of the property adjacent to the site. He is concerned about the safety of the stone wall and would like access to his property blocked off. The quotes range in price from \$7,872 to \$10,200. Liz mentioned that installing fencing behind the swings may not

leave enough clearance. She feels fencing the entire area is very expensive and the stone wall isn't that bad. Tana said an opening in the fencing should be left for tee ball players to get behind the backstop. Benches should be placed there for sitting. Mike said we don't have the budget to fence the entire perimeter. He feels the priorities are repairing the backstop, fencing along the railroad tracks and adding a gate to block off access to Bob Carroll's property. Jennifer will let Mr. Carroll know that we have taken his requests under consideration. However, we do not have enough funds available at this time to complete the entire project. Right now we will focus on the three areas of priority and consider expanding fencing in the future if more funding becomes available. Jennifer will get new quotes for the priority items and report back to the Commission. Bob said considering four foot fencing instead of five foot would decrease the cost further.

Jennifer spoke with the DPW about their plans to loam and seed the site. Both she and Bob expressed their concerns that no further landscaping has been done and it has become overgrown with weeds. Bob stated that timing is crucial for seeding. If we wait too long, the seeds won't take. Mike suggested Jennifer speak with David Colton to make sure the seeding happens in a timely manner. Jennifer has noticed trash accumulating at the site and expressed her desire for a trash receptacle to be placed there.

Frothingham Hall Steering Committee Update

Jennifer reported that the Steering Committee has been meeting monthly. Architect, Jay Thomas has been hired to draw up renovation plans for the building. She reviewed the department's spacing and program needs and handed out a draft conceptual plan for the building. Bob said the heating system in the building needs to be revamped. He asked what the basement will be used for. Jennifer responded that the basement will most likely be used for storage. Mike said that he would like the Commission to be involved in any meetings in which the operating costs of the building are discussed.

Review/Revise the Department's Vision Statement and Five Year Plan

Jennifer reviewed the department's mission statement and handed out her 2009 goals and objectives. She asked the Commission for their ideas/suggestions for a five year plan. Mike said he would like to see the department become more self-funding. Elizabeth feels there are not enough programs for 3-5 year olds. Mike suggested forming a sub-committee to discuss program needs and times of operation once we move to Frothingham Hall. Jennifer said once we move, she would like all programs to become more accommodating to the needs of working parents. She spoke about extending the hours of the summer program, offering child care on half days of school and vacations, and possibly offering before and after school care. She wants to add more preschool and adult programs and inclusive recreation opportunities. Len feels there is a large market for adult programming. Jennifer talked about accommodating the large number of families in need of financial assistance by offering basic programs at a low cost. For example, an on-site summer program, eliminating field trips and the high cost of admissions and bussing. She also mentioned the possible need for a

receptionist/secretary at Frothingham Hall to be available during extended hours of operation.

New Business

Bob reiterated his concerns about the Snelgrove playground site. He is willing to have his baseball players rake and seed the area as a community service project if we can get the DPW to spread loam.

Jennifer reported a break-in at the town pool. No valuables were stolen. However, the window needs repair and the door needs replacing.

Mike reported that the teachers at the Olmsted/Richardson Schools are excited about the new playgrounds. He expressed his intention to step down from the CPA Committee at the completion of the playground project and asked the other Commission members to consider replacing him.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Approval of Minutes

Michael McDonald, Chairman

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director