

**Park and Recreation Advisory Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2010**

Present: Lola Skolnik, Jay Shah, Paul Sabol, Kelly Ivy, Betty Sonneveldt, Marc Siegel, Lester Whitmer and Chris Husker
Staff: Joe McNeal, Co-Acting Director
Excused: Ken Blue, John Winfrey, Rachel McMullen, and Jacob (Boomer) Fletcher, student representative
Council: Konrad Herling, Council Member, was unable to attend but sent a report.

- Lola called the meeting to order at 7:30pm
- April 21st minutes approved 7-0. The motion was made by Kelly Ivy and seconded by Paul Sabol.
- Joe McNeal gave Recreation Department updates.
 - ✓ A 501c3 workshop was being conducted tonight, June 16th. There were 13 responses.
 - ✓ In the next 12 months it was hoped that workshops would be provided on building leadership, recruiting and keeping volunteers, and fundraising. PRAB members suggested that groups that are successful at fundraising like the Aquatic Boosters, Greenbelt Babe Ruth and Double Dutch assist in presenting ideas and strategies at the fundraising workshop.
 - ✓ Joe reported that hours at the Aquatic and Fitness Center had been reduced slightly as budget cutting measures.
 - ✓ Fees are to be increased at the Aquatics and Fitness Center
 - ✓ Joe reported that the quarterly Recreation Department report is now going to be on line. Every household in Greenbelt will get a post card telling residents when the report is ready. 5000 will be printed up to be available in specific locations.
 - ❖ Lola expressed concern that class attendance will drop because not everyone has a computer.
 - ❖ Betty mentioned that computer access was limited to those without computers because the library was closed for renovation.
 - ✓ Joe stated that registration at all of the summer camps is down. Usually by this time all spots are filled and there is often a waiting list. PRAB members mentioned the economy as a reason that numbers are down.
 - ✓ Joe stated that Park and Planning has 3 summer playgrounds in Greenbelt where it costs \$25 for 6 weeks and the registration is down there too.
 - ✓ Grad Night for Eleanor Roosevelt students went very well. 350 students attended.
 - ✓ Greenbelt Day weekend activities also went very well.
 - ✓ Joe related that Julie McHale's mother is seriously ill and suggested we keep her in our thoughts.
- The next agenda item was how PRAB members would prefer to get meeting materials – by hard copy, electronically, USPS, or other methods.

- ✓ It was decided by members to give it some thought over the summer and for the time being, members would prefer to get the materials electronically with a few hard copies brought to the meetings
 - ✓ Discussion will follow when Group Applications are to be reviewed because that is a lot of material to download and duplicate at home.
- Review of Contribution Group Evaluation Form
 - ✓ PRAB had two evaluation forms for use when reviewing Contribution Group Applications.
 - ✓ One form has a point system and one form is a summary sheet.
 - ✓ It was decided with minor modifications, to use both forms as the information is different on each form, but all of the information is necessary when making recommendations.
 - ✓ The point evaluation form can be used when reviewing the applications prior to meeting and the other form can be completed when PRAB meets.
- Contribution Group Application Forms – adjustments, additions and changes
 - ✓ Many PRAB members had concerns about fundraising reporting. Betty asked that the fundraising line be returned to the application.
 - ✓ Joe stated very firmly that tuition and dues collected are considered fundraising and can be included in the 1 to 1 match required by the City
 - ✓ Marc and other PRAB members want to see specifically fundraising other than dues or fees. Ken Blue in an email stated that we should still see the difference between what the families contribute per member and what the families raise through extra curricular activities.
 - ✓ Betty wants membership clarified – does membership include actual participating individuals or does it include all individuals associated with the activity. Betty suggested that membership clarification be part of the orientation meeting before the applications are submitted.
 - ✓ Lola, Betty, and others wanted to see a breakdown of dues or membership fees – how many pay full cost, how many pay partial fees, how many full scholarships
 - ✓ Kelly stated that if dues are included as fundraising, what is the incentive to do fundraising – just raise dues.
 - ✓ Joe stated that the intent is to reduce to burden to the organization.
 - ✓ Lola stated that the old view of fundraising is to build community, but that now parents are torn in too many directions.
 - ✓ IT was mentioned that some of the Contribution Groups still practice the old fundraising practices.
- Recreation Department Recruitment Criteria Memo – PRAB members were sent a memo asking for input into skills and abilities an ideal candidate should possess. As a group PRAB came up with these suggestions:
 1. The director should be a decisive decision maker.
 2. The director should instill confidence in the public and in the staff.

3. There is a preference for a director with knowledge of Greenbelt Programs and Greenbelt Citizens. This person should be familiar with the way services are delivered in Greenbelt.
 4. The director should have general high-level qualifications.
 - ✓ A lot of discussion followed about individual preferences. Lola explained the duties and responsibilities needed to be a Director.
 - ✓ Individual PRAB members may submit their personal comments and suggestions to the City.
- Two other items came up – poison ivy overgrowing the sidewalk on the hill on Westway and tennis balls in the Lake.
 - ✓ Betty Sonneveldt stated that the poison ivy has again overgrown the sidewalk on Westway. IT was decided that Betty should contact Public Works herself.
 - ✓ Marc Siegel said he collected 150 tennis balls from the Lake on the last clean-up day. He had suggestions for keeping the balls out of the Lake and he will contact the City.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10. Traditionally there is no PRAB meeting in July and August unless needed.