

**Park and Recreation Advisory Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2009**

Present: Lola Skolnik, Betty Sonneveldt, Chris Husker, Kelly Ivy, Paul Sabol, and Jay Shah
Staff: Hank Irving, Department of Recreation
Excused: Rachel Mullin, Melissa Hines-Rodriguez, Rick Ransom, Marc Siegel, and John Winfrey
Council: Konrad Herling, Council Member, had a conflicting meeting and was unable to attend

- February minutes approved 6-0
- Review of Contribution Group Budget Requests
 1. **Golden Age Club** – Presented by Cathie Brannan, President and Patrick Brannan, member. Cathie opened with a report on background information about the club and purposes of the organization. The club started in 1957. Membership is limited to people 60 years old and over and who reside within the city limits of Greenbelt. If a member joins while living in Greenbelt and then moves outside the city, he or she can retain membership. She stated City support sponsors trips, outings and picnics. Scholarships are available for one trip per year for those unable to afford the partial fee for the event. She also related that the club donates to Kids Camps, the News Review, and the New Year's Eve event.

Suggestions, Comments, and Concerns from PRAB members:

- ❖ Betty Sonneveldt had a question about the rise in cost of the luncheon. Cathie said that is was just an estimate as they have had treasurer turnover and Cathie herself is new.
- ❖ Jay Shah questioned the yearly dues. Currently it is \$8 per year and not increased this year due to the problems in the economy.
- ❖ Lola suggested \$12 per year for next year (\$1.00 per month)
- ❖ Kelly Ivy questioned if the \$6100 requested was enough to continue the program as it is.
- ❖ Hank Irving stated that the Golden Age Club is a different kind of contribution group as the money given by the City goes into the Recreation Account.
- ❖ The request for \$6100 was accepted as presented, 6-0. Lola Skolnik proposed the motion and Kelly Ivy seconded

It is to be noted that Cathie wanted to acknowledge Karen Haseley from the Therapeutic Recreation Division for the wonderful work she does with the club.

2. **Greenbelt Senior Softball** – Presented by Irv Salzberg, representative and player. Irv did not prepare the budget and had not seen it before. PRAB members had not seen the budget before either. Irv stated that there were currently 25 members and that you need 15 to field a team – 11 for each game.

Suggestions, Comments, and Concerns from PRAB members:

- ❖ Lola Skolnik stated that there were no dates on the tops of the budget worksheets and there was a lot of misinformation and expressed concerns that only 20% of the players were from Greenbelt. Lola asked about fundraising efforts as none were documented. Irv replied that the players are not good at planning fund raising, but would like to participate in any planned events by other organizations or the City.
- ❖ Betty Sonneveldt asked where the players come from and the reply indicated all over the County from Bowie in the north to Ft. Washington is the south and that two players are from Washington DC.
- ❖ Recommendations include \$30 dues be noted as income, the budget account for in-kind services, league fees be added in expenses, number of players and spectators be changed to reflect actual numbers
- ❖ The request for \$1000 was accepted with reservations. The document is incomplete and it was recommended the entire document be redone by James Harbaugh with help from the Recreation Department. The vote was 6-0. Betty Sonneveldt proposed and Paul Sabol seconded.

3. Greenbelt Swim Team – Presented by Khanh Pham, Treasurer and Marilyn Clune, Team Manager. Marilyn gave an overview of the swim team’s achievements of the past year including a division B championship and many swimmers going on to All-Stars. The swim team runs three swimming sessions and charges different fees for each session - \$45 for summer swimming, \$95 for fall swimming, and \$110 for winter/spring swimming. In addition, for summer swimming, all team members must have a membership in the Greenbelt Swimming Pool.

Suggestions, Comments, and Concerns from PRAB Members:

- ❖ Lola Skolnik questioned the coaching salaries numbers as there was a big difference between what the team was asking for in support from the City and what was listed in the budget. It was explained by Hank Irving and Betty Sonneveldt that the summer coaches are paid by the Recreation Department with the City contribution and the swim team itself pays the coaches for the winter swimming program. (summer swimming and September –May swimming)
- ❖ The swim team is asking for an increase of \$900 dollars to cover the expense of a payroll service for the fall and winter/spring swimming coaches.
- ❖ Lola Skolnik inquired about the organization’s 501(C)3 status and was told that the team is not eligible.
- ❖ The team was directed to put the fiscal year dates on the budget forms
- ❖ Betty Sonneveldt suggested that the team list a monetary amount for volunteer hours on part D, In-Kind Contributions. Also suggested was listing donated food to be sold at the concession at meets and donated travel costs.
- ❖ Betty Sonneveldt commended the fund-raising efforts of the swim team and its contribution the New Year’s Eve event with the beading activity.

- ❖ It was recommended to accept as presented the request for \$8,500. The vote was 6-0. Kelly Ivy presented the motion. Chris Husker seconded.

4. Greenbelt Little League (Greenbelt Base Ball) – Presented by Steve Valentich, President, Christine Bailey, Secretary, and Brian Bailey, Vice President. Steve Valentich opened changes to the application including the increase in the number of participants and number of machine pitch teams (now up to 6) and then went on to a list of requests for the City not listed on the application and in the budget. These requests included paving and curbing, dugout repairs (wants fencing on both sides of the dugouts), replacement team signs (estimate stated was \$2500), and drainage correction.

Suggestions, Comments, and Concerns from PRAB members:

- ❖ Lola Skolnik recommended that the group talk to Public Works about the additional requests, and add the additional requests to #10 on the application. (Group responded that Public Works already knows of the problems and the groups concerns).
- ❖ Lola inquired about the lack of a 501(C)3 status and advised the organization to pursue this. Hank Irving added that it had been in the works for a long time and would be not difficult to move forward.
- ❖ Kelly Ivy commented that in the past the funds for the team signs had been provided by the team sponsors, not City funds. Kelly also asked why profits from the “shack” were so low in comparison to past years. The group responded that there had been many games rained out and not made up and there was one fewer team.
- ❖ Lola Skolnik asked how the team was going to cover expenses over income.
- ❖ Betty Sonneveldt recommended adjusting the number of spectators to reflect actual number
- ❖ Jay Shah advised to fix current fiscal year to date on budget.
- ❖ It was moved to accept with recommendations the request for \$9000. The vote was 6-0. Lola Skolnik motioned and Kelly Ivy seconded.

5. Greenbelt Babe Ruth – Presented by Bob Sonneveldt, President and Mark Markowich, Baseball Commissioner. Bob Sonneveldt opened by giving an overview of the program and expressing a concern that there is an age gap between when kids are too old to play Little League and too young for a Babe Ruth. He stated that there are kids with n where to play and when parents call with children whose ages fall into the gap, he has to refer them to communities outside of Greenbelt. He also asked where the replacement netting was for the batting cage.

Suggestions, Comments, and Concerns from PRAB members:

- ❖ Hank Irving commented that the City had the replacement netting, but that Parks and Recreation staff did not see where the netting needed replacing at this time. Bob Sonneveldt said the netting crumbled in his hands last summer and that he had tied it up himself. Hank said staff would inspect the netting with Bob and that the replacement netting was available if needed.

- ❖ Lola Skolnik noted that the value of the volunteer hours should be added to the in-kind portion of the budget.
 - ❖ It was noted that the organization needs to add more complete dates on the budget columns.
 - ❖ Kelly Ivy inquired about the status of the shed.
 - ❖ **Hank Irving said that the shed may be in by the end of the fiscal year because the Public Works new building and new bathrooms at the lake park were now on schedule!!!!!!**
 - ❖ It was motioned to accept as presented the request for \$8000 (\$1000 less than last year). Lola Skolnik proposed and Betty Sonneveldt seconded. The vote was 6-0.
- There is an Advisory Board Chairmen's meeting next Wednesday, March 25. This conflicts with the PRAB second budget review meeting. It was suggested by Lola Skolnik that Rachel Mc Mullin, as Vice Chair, should attend this meeting instead of Lola Skolnik.
 - Hank Irving stated that Celeste May, Administrative Assistant received a Showcase Award from MRPA design of an outstanding promotional flyer.
 - Council Member Konrad Herling communicated via e-mail to Hank for PRAB's information that the City recently received word they will receive a Grant of \$30,000 to support the development and enhancement of a bicycle and pedestrian connection. APB and perhaps PRAB will have input on the plans. He will provide additional details as known.
 - Meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm