

**Park and Recreation Advisory Board  
Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2009**

Present: Lola Skolnik, Betty Sonneveldt, Chris Husker, Kelly Ivy, Paul Sabol, Marc Seigel, and Melissa Hines-Rodriguez  
Staff: Hank Irving, Director of Recreation  
Excused: Rachel McMullin (present for some time later in the meeting), Rick Ransom, Jay Shah, and John Winfrey  
Council: Konrad Herling, Council Member

- Hank Irving circulated revised Recognition Group lists, the Boys' and Girls' club budget narrative, and the amended Greenbelt Babe Ruth budget request with the recommended changes.
- Konrad Herling reported on the proposed City Budget - budget is for \$25,355,600 which is a \$474,500 increase (1.9%). There will be a \$0.01 increase in County tax. Budget includes a new staff position for Public Works to maintain restrooms at Buddy Attic and Schrom Hills and to take care of trash in the Roosevelt Center and for special events. A transfer of \$200,000 from the General fund to the Bond fund is proposed. There is a \$1.3 million fund for the theater renovation - \$500,000 from the state, \$200,000 from another source and the City is still looking for the \$900,000 remaining to fund the project. While the renovation is being done, the theater will be closed for six months. The City is proposing to cut 4.55 positions to reduce expenses. FY2009 expenditures over expenses \$221,000. FY2010 provides funds to restore fund balances. Konrad was pleased that despite the economy, services have been increased. He mentioned that Greenbelt is lucky to have not been hit as hard as other communities. He commented that it is the first time in Greenbelt history when \$0.01 on the tax rate is \$200,000
  - ❖ Marc Siegel asked Councilman Herling why there was no funding in the budget for projects to clean up Greenbelt Lake.
  - ❖ Several PRAB members made reference to the February 18, 2009 PRAB meeting where Leslie Riddle, Supervisor of Parks, reported that draining the lake was no longer an environmentally sound, that what comes out of the lake is now considered hazardous waste and is very costly to dispose of properly, and that Public Works had several projects in the works to help clean up and maintain the lake.
  - ❖ Melissa Hines-Rodriguez commented about the problems maintaining the small lake in Empirian Village.
  - ❖ Lola Skolnik asked Councilman Herling what is happening with the Youth Advisory Committee, where one youth was to be assigned to each advisory committee. She commented that PRAB would like to have another youth member. Councilman Herling responded that the program is still being worked on and it is still a goal to have a youth member on every advisory board.
- Review of Contribution Group Budget Requests

- 1. Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club, Inc.** –presented by Tony Davis, President, Mae Moncayo, Vice President, Laurell Voglezon, Treasurer, and Crystal Robinson, Secretary. Laurell opened with presenting the challenges and problems the club faced. Laurell said that getting volunteers, fundraising, and not enough time were the main problems the club encountered. Laurell stated that the club was not allowed to have a concession wagon for basketball games and that the club had gone from eleven teams to eighteen teams so that basketball games were a good option to have concessions. A fish fry had raised money, but was no longer being allowed due to cooking preparation problems. Laurell also stated a concern that basketball teams had to share the courts for practice, and that the club would like to have a summer cheerleading program and a summer basketball program, but that they were not allowed to use any gym facilities in the summer months.

**Suggestions, Comments, and Concerns from PRAB members:**

- ❖ Hank Irving addressed the concession issues – a health department permit is needed for continuous concessions. Hank also said that there was a concern that if the concession wagon was parked in the parking lot at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, reduced parking for other attendees' vehicles would be an issue, safety is a prime issue for children going into the parking lot to buy food, and clean-up of trash is a problem. Cooking grease was a major issue throughout the Youth Center building floors and spilled oil on the Youth Center patio was present for over a week. Hank stated very strongly that the Fish Fry in this location is not an option as a result of problems with the previous event. Hank suggested that there are other ways to fundraise and that he and the Recreation Department would work with the club to come up with ideas.
- ❖ Betty Sonneveldt, as an example, mentioned a group at Eleanor Roosevelt that sold slices of pizza and that there was a group picnic area at the lake where fundraising picnics could be held annually or quarterly. Hank suggested a fish fry could be held at the Lake Park or Schrom Hills Park.
- ❖ Lola Skolnik asked what the registration fees were. Laurell Voglezon stated that it was \$135 for the year, and a child can play as many sports as he/she can get in during that year. The club offers football, basketball, soccer, and cheerleading. The second child in the family is \$75. A child is charged \$50 if only one sport is an option for that child. Board members and coaches get a discount. PRAB members asked about scholarships and it was stated that the club gives out 20 scholarships per year. Applications go to the board secretary, are evaluated by the board, and kept anonymous.
- ❖ Hank Irving addressed the reported lack of gym time for practices. He stated that the Boys and Girls Club is not the only organization that needed use of the facilities and that it cannot be expected to have exclusive use of the gym. In addition teams need to use half-court shared use in order to increase practice time instead of full court allocations. Time was also added by the department's pursuit of permits

at Greenbelt Middle School. Lola Skolnik commented that increasing teams from eleven to eighteen also meant more teams, less time to go around. Teams must share full court use to adjust time available.

- ❖ Kelly Ivy asked what the club was buying for \$30,000. The response was that football uniforms include many parts, and that helmets have a short life span.
- ❖ Betty Sonneveldt expressed concern about \$10,000 being used for awards. It was stated by Tony Davis, that each child gets a \$12 trophy for each sport that he/she plays each year. Lola Skolnik remarked that that is comparable to other groups per child.
- ❖ Lola Skolnik asked the club to respond to “can’t use the gyms during the summer months”. Hank responded that because of summer recreation programs in the gyms, summer use is not possible by the club teams. Hank suggested that Boys and Girls Club contact Greenbelt Babe Ruth so the kids who need summer activities could play baseball. Tony Davis replied that the club had met with Babe Ruth and that Babe Ruth was not interested. Lola stated that it was good to document that there is a shortage of gym time.
- ❖ Hank commented that things are much better organizationally for the club. Laurell responded that things were going better for the club and that they were maintaining a board, but that getting volunteers was still a problem. Lola suggested that the Boys and Girls Club put in the budget narrative that they are looking for volunteers and that they have a scholarship program.
- ❖ Lola asked how the club calculates the value of volunteer hours. The response was that it is done by a set rate, but she did not know the figure used.
- ❖ The request for \$20,000 was accepted with recommendations, 7-0. Lola Skolnik motioned.

2. **Greenbelt City Stars** – Presented by Kimberly Bradshaw, Head Coach and President. Kimberly was asked to give highlights of last year’s performing and fundraising successes. She reviewed what was in the budget narrative. She stated that the group is getting a lot of requests for performances.

**Suggestions, Comments and Concerns from PRAB members:**

- ❖ Hank asked what dollar amount was used to calculate the value of volunteer hours. Kimberly responded that she used \$10.00/hour. She has a staff of five. Hank pointed out that again this is very important because it illustrates what the City does not have to pay for in connection with the programs and services for additional staff.
- ❖ Chris Husker noted that the group is not a 501(C)3. Kimberly replied that she was interested, but that she was too busy to complete the paperwork. Hank and Lola both stated that a workshop should be set up for groups to assist them in applying for the funding status.

- ❖ Rachel McMullin asked if the group looked for grants for funding. Kimberly said you must be a 501(C)3 to apply for grants.
  - ❖ Lola commented and congratulated on the group's fundraising efforts and the number of activities and performances
  - ❖ Kimberly stated that the group does have scholarships.
  - ❖ Betty Sonneveldt asked what the difference was between tuition and dues. Kimberly stated that dues are a one-time fee, and tuition is the monthly fee (\$55 currently) for weekly lessons and practices. Betty also asked about the very low amount in the bank accounts. Kimberly responded that money is moved in and out regularly – dues and tuition come in and registrations and entry fees for competitions go out.
  - ❖ There are many errors on the Budget Worksheet and changes need to be made to Expenses line d and m, and Income, lines c, e, and h
  - ❖ The request for \$4000 was accepted as presented with changes to the budget lines. Mark Siegel motioned. Paul Sabol seconded. The vote was 7-0
- Lola Addresses the Recognition Groups. Kelly motioned to approve as presented for all groups. Rachel McMullin seconded. The vote was 7-0.
  - Marc Siegel questioned why we were intensely questioning the groups, specifically the Boys and Girls Club. He stated that PRAB had not done that before, and it was not our roll to pick the budgets apart. A lively conversation followed. Lola suggested that we revisit putting a revised procedure in place starting at the May meeting of how to advise groups to complete their budgets, how deep do we need to look into budgets, and what PRAB should do, if anything, to change for next year the way the review process is conducted. All PRAB members agreed that there needs to be uniform completions of budgets, specifically how volunteer hours are credited, how membership numbers are determined, how form dates are recorded, and what goes on each budget line.
  - The meeting was adjourned at 9:55. Lola proposed and Paul seconded.