



Recreation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER 6:07 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: P. Horn-McGee, J. Weiss, J. Lucchetti, K. Winkelseth

Members Absent: L. Zuber and B. Filipiak (excused)
(Filipiak present at 6:25 pm)

Staff Present: Shannon Stumbo-Bellers, Assistant City Manager

III. Approval of Minutes – July 23, 2003

Motion to approve as submitted P Horn-McGee (J. Lucchetti Support) carried 4-0

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Council member Lois Richardson spoke about her appreciation for the Commission taking on the charge and that she would assist in any way needed.

V. AGENDA APPROVAL

- J Weiss requested that item VI(A) be moved to the end of discussion to allow Commissioner Filipiak to participate in introductions.

- J Weiss requested that a new item VI(A) be added to the agenda to discuss "Citizen Participation Process."

Motion to approve as amended P Horn-McGee, (J Lucchetti Support) – carried 4-0

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. **Public participation guidelines** – Commission members discussed whether audience participation would include discussion and responses from the Commission or simply a format to receive citizen input. Commission members agreed to provide a format for citizen input and then provide an acknowledgment of issues raised for future response.

The Commission further agreed that updates and information should be posted regularly to the City's website, in e-mails to residents and neighborhood associations and placed in the newspaper when applicable to keep the community informed on the Commission's progress and action.

B. Commission Member Updates –

- J Weiss reported in L Zuber's absence that there were no updates from her.
- P Horn-McGee reported that summer is the wrong season to contact fraternities and sororities and further activity will need to wait until September. Horn-McGee also reported that Dinelda Crosby from the United Way is willing to come and discuss collaboration ideas. The Commission agreed that Horn-McGee should extend an invitation to Ms Crosby to attend the September 18, 2003 Commission meeting
- J Lucchetti reported that a potential contact organization could be Phi Beta Kappa and she wondered if the City had contacted Washtenaw Community College for potential volunteers.
- J Weiss reported that he contacted Bonnie Miller (Human Services for Eastern Michigan University) and has a meeting at the end of August.

J Weiss also met with Vic Chiasson (Associate Professor at EMU) regarding working with the Commission and provided a summary of his meeting in writing. The Commission discussed the overall issue of a potential recreation millage (as Weiss discussed with Chiasson), the process for placing a millage on a ballot and the need for a "Friends of Ypsilanti Recreation" committee to spear-head any millage campaign. Stumbo-Bellers mentioned that the Commission could review the materials from the Blue Ribbon Street Committee as a successful model for a local millage campaign.

[Council member Richardson offered two additional options for millage funding which were to request that the Ypsilanti School District place a recreation millage on their next ballot and also look into the possibility of creating a Recreation Authority with the surrounding townships and the County.]

Commission members discussed funding options for recreation, fee structures and the need to review fees for continued stability, and the need for surveys, public forums and citizen input.

B Filipiak volunteered to begin researching the various state statutes, to meet with Dr. Zuhlke from Ypsilanti Public Schools and gather information related to any district millage or authority.

K Winkelseth moved (J Lucchetti support) to invite Vic Chiasson to the August 21 meeting to further discuss the survey project and millage concept with the Commission and to allow B Filipiak to begin investigating the school district and recreation authority laws and issues. Carried 4-0

C. City Update – Stumbo-Bellers provided updated information related to current activities, partnerships, and programming through Recreation Department and provided copies of the August 5, 2003, Update Report provided to City Council.

- The Commission requested further information for the Focus Hope food distribution program including a list of distribution sites in the City, the number of residents currently participating and the area(s) they reside, and the number of residents reliant on City transportation to participate with the program. Other discussion provided ideas to contact area churches for either volunteers or transportation and perhaps contact other organizations who may currently offer the program as potential partners. The Commission indicated a desire to consolidate services if possible but not to cut services if not duplicative.

K Winkelseth suggested that the City contact the universities (EMU, U of M, and Wayne State) for volunteer interns, fraternities and sororities for volunteers and for the City to attend local events to distribute information. K Winkelseth will obtain information regarding U of M's upcoming "Festifall" to distribute to the Commission.

J Weiss mentioned that the Normal Park Neighborhood Association (NPNA) held their annual Ice Cream Social at Recreation Park on August 6 and had a letter to Governor Granholm blown up large scale for residents to sign. The NPNA's desire is to deliver the letter to Representative Jamnick for a possible opportunity of delivering the letter directly to the Governor.

J Lucchetti requested information regarding the City's system for accepting donations and Stumbo-Bellers reviewed the current process and committed to forwarding the written information to the Commission.

- D. **Community Forums** – The Commission discussed the potential time line for working with Chiasson and the students on surveys as ending in mid-October. The Commission then discussed the potential to schedule four special meetings around the community between mid-October and November. The Commission discussed concerns related to the timing of efforts for continued pool operations as the pool season ends Labor Day. The Commission also discussed allowing resident groups to continue obtaining names of residents interested in assisting in funding campaigns.

Stumbo-Bellers offered to draft an update letter outlining current Commission activities, the meeting schedule, ability to submit donations and requesting support as projects are developed. The letter would be sent to all of the residents on the current list of potential volunteers, neighborhood associations and any other groups the Commission deems appropriate. A draft letter will be e-mailed to Commission members for review with the intent that a final letter will be signed by all Commission members at the August 21 meeting.

- E. **Recreation Program Budgets** – The Commission reviewed the budget information provided by Stumbo-Bellers outlining basic operational costs for Parkridge and the Senior Center. Stumbo-Bellers answered questions

regarding the number of volunteers needed at the Centers and that volunteers would vary depending on the specific programs provided at each center.

- F. **Commission Member Introductions** – B Filipiak and K Winkelseth introduced themselves (as new members to Commission), Commissioners J Lucchetti, P Horn-McGee and J Weiss, and Assistant City Manager Stumbo-Bellers introduced themselves.

- G. **Next Steps** – Commission members reviewed the information from the meeting that would be researched and followed up and confirmed that Vic Chiasson would be invited to the September 4 meeting to discuss the survey projects and potential millage issue. K Winkelseth indicated that she will be out of town for the next meeting but would provide any updated information to the Commission by e-mail.

VII. ADJOURNMENT –

With no further business before the Commission, meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.
Motion by J Weiss / Supported by J Lucchetti – Motion Carried 4-0