

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Dickey Bill Stobart
Pat Duncan Christy Watt, Chairperson
Scott Roberts

GUESTS PRESENT: Jeff Wilbert, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation
Tammy Edge, Operations Manager

Pittsburg Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 4:00 pm in Lincoln Center. Christy Watt called the meeting to order with all members present.

The first order of business was the approval of the October minutes. Bill Dickey made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Bill Stobart. Motion passed. Tammy Edge said that Kim Vogel was not at the meeting due to a meeting with the Tobacco Free Crawford County Coalition.

The second order of business was the review of the activity & facility usage reports from October through November. Tammy Edge told the members that the reports were there for them to review and if they had any questions they could call or e-mail her and she would be glad to answer their questions. Tammy did bring to the boards attention the Halloween window painting line in the activity report because that will be of importance to another area in the meeting. She also mentioned that the Kids Garage Sale went well. Jeff Wilbert mentioned that Europe Park will soon be turned over to the City of Pittsburg and it will become one of the parks that the Parks & Recreation Department will maintain. All of the board members agreed that it is a special and really nice park.

OLD BUISNESS

Halloween Window Painting Update

Tammy Edge said that the painting went really well and that the department and the parents were glad that it was held inside at the armory due to the weather. Jeff Wilbert, Kim Vogel & Tammy Edge worked the event. Jeff Wilbert said that the way it was set up the department saved a lot on paint, because instead of giving every child 7 cups of paint there was paint set up throughout the area for kids to share. Tammy Edge also mentioned that the parents helped a lot with the cleanup which made it real nice. The board was given pictures of the event. Tammy then explained that the department waited a day or two for the pictures to dry and then the pictures were delivered

downtown for area businesses to display in their windows. Christy Watt said that having it indoors it could take place rain or shine.

Spook-tacular Update

Tammy Edge told the board that there were 344 tickets sold, which is a combination of adults and kids. Jeff Wilbert said that being at the auditorium he saw what took place but that this is the first year that he actually attended the event. He said that it takes 2 complete days to prepare the entire lower level of the auditorium. There was a magician, costume contest, games, haunted room, crafts and treat bags for each child. Jeff said that he thought it was a safe place where parents could bring their kids and let them go around and enjoy themselves without having to stay with them the entire time. Tammy Edge then mentioned that Kim and the department received a nice article in the Morning Sun regarding the event. Christy Watt mentioned with our department, PSU, and the YMCA there is a lot of safe activities for area children to participate in. Tammy & Jeff also mentioned a new activity, which was trick or trunk, was held at Immigrant Park this year. Jeff said that not a lot of children go door to door anymore but Bill Dickey said that he got quit a few. He said that he enjoys handing out candy to the area children.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Parade / Easter Egg Hunt

Jeff said that he wanted to mention to the board that it was brought to the Parks Department's attention that the Jaycees was no longer going to be an acting organization in Pittsburg. Jamie Wilson a member of the Jaycees came into the office and wanted to know if the City and the Parks & Recreation Department would be willing to take over the Christmas Parade. She said that her and her staff would be willing to show the parks staff what took place before the parade, which would be getting everyone in the parade lined up and ready to go. Tammy Edge asked her what expenses there were in putting on the parade and Jamie said that the only expense that they had was the trophies that were bought for the competition between the bands and the floats. Tammy asked if the competition was taken out of the parade would there still be a lot of entries? Jamie seemed to think so. Jeff said that the staff would be apart of the parade this year to see what actually took place and then report back to Mr. VanGorden and the Park Board.

Jeff then mentioned the Easter Egg Hunt that the Jaycees have put on for years. Mr. Dickey asked where the event was held and was told it was always held at the band dome in Lincoln Park. In 2008 the event did not take place due to lack of funds within the Jaycee organization and the Parks & Recreation Department received a lot of phone calls wanting to know why it was not being held. People in the community thought that our department had something to do with the hunt. Jeff said that he was hoping the Young Professionals, YMCA & the Parks & Recreation Department would take this over as a group effort in 2009. Scott Roberts said that he is a member of the Young Professionals and that he would bring it up at his next meeting.

Limbs & Brush

Jeff said that citizens still think the City is picking up limbs from the curbs. We do not have the man power or the funding to keep picking these limbs up so the City has decided to open the burn site, which is located on East Quincy, on the second Saturday of each month for citizens of Pittsburg to take their limbs. It was announced on the web page, Morning Sun and Channel 6. It was open from 8am until noon and it took 2 employees to man it during those hours. In October 56 loads were taken and we hope it will be well utilized in the months of November and December also.

Changes to Fees & Charges

Jeff wanted the board to know that staff has been reviewing different ways to help cut down on expenses in different areas of the Parks & Recreation Department. At this time the board reviewed fees that the Parks & Recreation Department is asking to be changed by the City Commission at the end of the year to go in effect January 1, 2009. One of the proposed increases would be to raise the shelter house rent & Bill Dickey said that those fees were still minimal and approved the changes which were seconded by Pat Duncan. The next proposed change would be to the Aquatic Center fees. The Parks & Recreation suggest that daily rates raise fifty cents, family swim fee go up from \$10.00 to \$15.00 and then do away with the trip cards. The family pass and individual pass would remain the same since those were raised at the end of 2007 for the 2008 season. The board did ask questions about the trip cards and Tammy explained that the difference between a trip card and an individual pass is that more than one person could use a trip card. She went over the number of trip cards that were sold and explained to the board that it was not really worth it to keep these cards available and that the department would still work with large groups, such as church groups, etc. to allow them to have a group rate, but this rate would have to be approved through the office. Tammy did inform the board that the Fourth of July will be a free swim day and that Jeff wanted to add a couple of more dates for free swims. One of these dates suggested would be Fathers Day in June and then maybe a Back to School Swim in August. Scott Roberts said that he knows that it is a place that a lot of parents drop their kids off for daycare for the day but would like to see more events for the families to spend time together. So after all of this said the board agreed with the proposed rate increases. Pat Duncan brought up the idea of closing the pool before Labor Day. Jeff said that was brought up in meetings and the suggestion was to close down the Lazy River and just keep the Main Pool open on weekends from August 9th through Labor Day. Pat Duncan thought this was a good idea as long as the Lazy River could be drained. If not this could be a safety issue. Tammy did say that keeping the pool open after August 9th there could be private parties also held. PSU always held a Freshman Experience Swim Party and there were a couple of other back to school parties, which are \$300.00 each. Jon Kindlesparger, Four Oaks Superintendent suggested we raise a few of the fees at Four Oaks. He is suggesting raising the annual passes \$25.00. This would make the Senior/Youth Annual Pass - \$325.00 and the Adult Annual Pass - \$450.00. He also suggested raising the cart fees from \$5.00 to \$6.00 for nine holes per person and \$10.00 to \$12.00 for 18 holes per person & then to raise the driving range fees from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per bucket of balls. The Annual Cart Shed rental fee has not

been increased for years and we are asking it to be raised from \$180.00 to \$200.00.
After reviewing the changes for Four Oaks the board approved all proposed increases.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm and the next meeting was scheduled for December 11, 2008 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Edge