

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2008

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Jeff Wilbert, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation
Tammy Edge, Operations Manager
Ken Robertson, Park Superintendent

Pittsburg Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 4:00 pm in Lincoln Center. Christy Watt called the meeting to order with 4 members present.

Mr. Wilbert announced to the board that he was given the position of Interim Director of Parks & Recreation by the City Commission and City Manager until the end of the year when there would be further discussion on the position. The board welcomed him into the position.

The first order of business was the approval of the June minutes. Pat Duncan made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Christy Watt. Motion passed.

The second order of business was the review of the activity & facility usage reports from June through September. Tammy Edge told the members that the reports were long since they covered June – September and if they wanted to look them over after the meeting and get back to her with any questions they could do that. Tammy did mention that shelter #2 in Lincoln Park is the most used shelter within all of our parks. This was mentioned because it will be a factor later on in the meeting. There were no questions at this time so the meeting moved on to the next order of business.

The third order of business was items from the floor. Mr. Wilbert said that he would like to wait until the end of the meeting to discuss items from the floor then mentioned that he would like for the board members to be his eyes and ears and to please let him know of any suggestions or complaints pertaining to staff, events, facilities or programs.

OLD BUSINESS

Halloween Window Painting Update

Tammy Edge noted that Kim Vogel had gotten permission to use the National Guard Armory on Wednesday, October 15th, and that the kids will paint their pictures there from 3:30 – 5:30 pm and then the parks staff would deliver the pictures to downtown merchants to display in their windows.

Stice Ballfield Fence

Ken Robertson said that him and Jeff Wilbert went to look at the fence situation at Stice and ran into Jeff Elliott, who is the president of the J.L. Hutchinson Board. Ken mentioned that the Parks Department was throwing around an idea of moving the 11 & 12 year old baseball program to Red Berry and moving fast pitch softball to Stice. Mr. Elliott thought that this could possibly work and to let him know what becomes of it so that he could bring it up to the J.L. Hutch Board members. Ken said that there would be some work needed on Red Berry but that he thought it would be a nice field for that age group in baseball and said that since Stice is already set up for girls fast pitch softball for the high school it would work good for the summer softball program also. Christy Watt did mention that the boys would not like it because it will take a longer ball to get a home run on Berry and then Pat Duncan said that there could possibly be more in the park home runs. On another note it was brought up that both St. Mary's and PHS softball teams want to use Stice for their varsity home softball games. It will depend on their schedules if this will be possible or not.

Shelter #2 in Lincoln Park

As mentioned earlier in the meeting by Tammy Edge, this shelter is the most used out of all of our parks. Ken Robertson said that the shelter is at least 30 years old and is in need of remodeling to make it handicap accessible and to just update the appearance. He said that if we put in for a Pritchett Grant that PSU might be willing to remodel the shelter with the supplies being bought with the grant money.

Jaycee Ballpark Update

The batting cage on the 3rd base side has been cemented in and will be completed by the first of the spring season. There was a fence installed on the 3rd base side also to keep fans out of the area of the pitching and batting cages. Christy Watt asked if this area was all cement or if there was any grass and Ken Robertson said there was some grass but that it was mostly cement. Ken said that staff was also doing dirt work in the outfield areas and then planting grass seed. Christy Watt then mentioned if there was a possibility that there could be tables with umbrellas put in the concession area and even on the 3rd base side area for fans and teams to sit at between games. She had seen this at a field in Omaha and it was a nice addition to the stadium. Mr. Wilbert said that the City would look into this and agreed that it would be a nice addition to the park. Ken Robertson said that they are still dealing with the bird issues but seemed to think that it improved this year over previous years.

NEW BUSINESS

4th of July Summary

The 4th of July festivities went well with the weather being good. Mr. Wilbert stated that he did not know if the City would be able to keep up the funding for the event, but knows that the public would be upset if the fireworks were taken away. He would like to see sponsorships for each of the activities and would like to see it cut down to just a one day

event. He knows that the main cost is the fireworks but that this would cut down on some of the costs that the City takes on. The craft vendors were down this year and the reasoning behind this might be the gas situation. With prices being so high it might have kept some of them from traveling. Mr. Wilbert said that the staff will work on ideas over the winter months to try and make the 2009 festivity more feasible.

Tennis Court Resurfacing

Doug Thomas has repaired the cracks, painted the courts and replaced the boards on the backstop at the Jack Johnson Tennis Courts. Mr. Dickey asked if this was going to take care of the problem with the cracks and Mr. Wilbert said that we would have to wait and see how the cracks hold up through the weather changes. This has been an ongoing problem and that the only way to fix the cracks for good would be to completely lay down new courts and this is not possible at this time. Tammy Edge said that there has been nothing but good complements coming from the tennis players in the community.

Proposed Disc Golf Course for Schlanger Park

Kevin Elrod came to the Parks & Recreation Department with an idea to put a nine hole disc golf course at Schlanger Park. It would be a course like the one in Lincoln Park but with longer holes. Ken Robertson walked the area that would be used for the course with Mr. Elrod and thought it would work out great. Mr. Elrod will be working on raising the money or getting donations to build the course. The board agreed that this would be a great idea.

Proposed Bike Trail

Mr. Wilbert told the board that a group of men came to the Parks & Recreation Department with an idea to make the 23rd Street Overpass Dumps into a bike trail. The board was given material of what the course could look like and what it would cost to build. Mr. Wilbert and Tammy Edge took the information to Mr. VanGorden and Mr. Menghini for approval and were told that there was a lot of information that would have to be looked up regarding liability and cost to the City. Mr. Wilbert then said that the department would look into the needed information and try to have answers by the next board meeting.

Proposed Golf Clinic

Homer Cole, with the Elk's Club, called the Parks & Recreation Department wanting to co-sponsor a golf clinic for kids. In 2008 they held their clinic at Countryside Golf Course and there were only 7 kids that signed up. He thought they would have a better turn out if they held it at Four Oaks since it is centrally located. Tammy Edge told the board that the City puts on a 6 week (2 days a week) clinic and furnished them the information on what the cost is to the City and what is brought in by the fees charged for the clinic. Mr. Cole told Tammy Edge and Lee Farmer that the Elk's would furnish the clubs for the kids and that it would pay the City a certain amount to hold the clinic at the course. Board members thought that it would be a good idea to be a co-sponsor with

an organization like the Elk's Club so they approved the idea. Tammy Edge and Lee Farmer will get with Mr. Cole to go over the final arrangements and dates for the clinic.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm and the next meeting was scheduled for November 13, 2008 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Edge