

## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes November 17, 2005**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 1:13 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tom Dixon  
Bernie Goss  
Dennis Derrieux  
Jack Neckels  
Reford Theobold  
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

David Detwiler  
Dennis Teeters

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director  
Don Hobbs Hobbs, Assistant Director  
Traci Altergott, Recreation Supervisor  
Linda Friesen, Leisure Services Representative

### **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Jack Neckels moved to approve the October 27, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Bernie Goss seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

### **Item 3: Update on City Council review of proposed 2006/2007 Budget**

Joe Stevens provided an update on the 2006/2007 budget which was presented to City Council on November 12, 2005. Joe Stevens stated the Parks and Recreation Department budget will be facing a few challenges, including several golf issues. Mr. Stevens reported Tiara Rado Golf Course has seen some significant improvements; however, there is still much concern regarding the Lincoln Park Golf Course. Joe Stevens stated the City plans to begin laying off golf personnel (for the first time), beginning with one position this year and another position in 2006. In addition to the lay offs, one of the Golf Pros is being reduced from full time to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. Mr. Stevens stated the Golf Pro will still have the option of providing private lessons. Joe Stevens expressed that, unfortunately, the only possible way to balance the golf budget is to make some cut backs.

Joe Stevens discussed how the resident/non-resident issue relates to the budget. Mr. Stevens stated the Parks and Recreation Department is proposing City Council consider eliminating the two separate rates and switch to one-fee structure. Joe Stevens said City Council will be considering adopting a new fee structure in December for 2006 - 2007. Mr. Stevens stated the Parks and

Recreation Department is recommending the new fee structure be implemented by May 1, 2006, with golf changes in place by summer of 2006. There is a distinction between enterprise funded divisions (i.e.: golf) and general fund divisions (i.e.: recreation). Additionally, the majority of general fund sales tax revenue is generated from non-residents.

Traci Altergott distributed examples of the current fee structure (residents and non-resident), along with the combined fee structure for recreation, golf, and aquatics. (See attached) Mr. Stevens reported the Parks & Recreation Department has to continue generating enough revenue to recapture between 70% and 75% of the direct costs for the recreation programs. Joe Stevens stated the Parks and Recreation Department is currently collecting more resident fees than non-resident, and, unfortunately, the fees do not generate revenue sufficient to recapture 70-75% cost recovery. Mr. Stevens said the other issue is the growing number of individuals who deceive the Department by providing "inaccurate" information in order to qualify for the "resident" fees.

Jack Neckels expressed the time has come for participants to be charged the same fee no matter where they live. Mr. Neckels stated he would strongly approve a program that charges "all" users a fair and equitable fee.

Reford Theobold said he disagrees with changing the fee structure, stating the history of the resident/non-resident "surcharge" was originally addressed by City Council due to the City practically "giving away" their services. Mr. Theobold stated people living outside of City limits were receiving the same benefits, therefore, eliminating any incentive for annexations. Reford Theobold said he opposes returning to a situation in which the City is giving away City services, and discouraging annexation. Mr. Theobold said it is a matter of "equity", as City residents pay property taxes, shop in the City, and depend on the City's programs.

Dennis Derrieux stated he understands the need for additional funds in order to reach the 70% recovery level. Mr. Derrieux asked if there were any programs that could be changed to increase the cost recovery. David Derrieux said he agrees with Reford Theobold, and that he approves increasing the resident rate, and discourages lowering the non-resident rate.

Bernie Goss said he also agrees with Reford Theobold. Mr. Goss stated the City residents should receive some additional benefits, and that the County should be responsible for some of their own programs. Bernie Goss stated the City needs additional facilities, but not solely at the City's expense.

Tom Dixon asked if there are any activities/programs that draw more non-resident participation than resident. Traci Altergott responded the "adult sports" non-resident participant level is decreasing due to the fees, causing the participants to either provide false information, or to not register at all. Tom Dixon stated he understands the administrative nightmares of resident vs. non-resident verifications; however, he is disinclined to support a fee structure that will be a subsidy for non-residents at the expense of residents. Jack Neckels suggested the City use this as an opportunity to force the issue with the County, as recreation is a "county wide" issue.

Reford Theobold moved to 1) continue with the "resident" discount fee structure, 2) encourage fees that reflect cost recovery guidelines, and 3) engage in conversations with the County Commissioners to pursue County participation and commitment. Bernie Goss seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

Doug Thomason stated he will present the Board's recommendation to City Council, expressing the importance of obtaining County participation.

**Item 4: Future Meetings Agenda**

Discussion ensued regarding recognition of Jim & Sue Nall, and Max Krey for their contributions to the Parks & Recreation Department, especially with regard to Westlake Park.

**Item 5: Adjourn**

Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Reford Theobald moved and Jack Neckels seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Friesen  
Leisure Services Representative