

Minutes of the Recreation Advisory Commission  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 6:30 P.M.  
Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT Nick Crowe, Stacy Ebron, Hadil Ghoneim, Naomi Goldberg, Glenn Nelson, Larry O’Connell, Hannah Smith, Patti Smith, Zachary Weiner

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT Jenna Bacolor, Josh Landefeld

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS Larry O’Connell called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M

PUBLIC COMMENTARY None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the December 14, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Stacy Ebron and seconded by Glenn Nelson that the meeting minutes of December 14, 2021 be approved. On a unanimous vote, Larry O’Connell declared the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Designate PAC Liaison
  - a. Josh Landefeld detailed the volunteer position
    - i. Goals, meeting dates, relationship between PAC and RAC
  - b. Larry O’Connell volunteered to be the PAC liaison
  - c. Naomi Goldberg made a motion to accept Larry O’Connell as the PAC liaison and Glenn Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Youth Team Sports and Gender Inclusivity - Seth Dodson, Team Sports Manager
  - a. Seth Dodson presented a slide show on [Gender Inclusivity](#) in Youth Team sports
  - b. Rec & Ed Youth Team Sports support parents, youth and coaches in building relationships that allow youth to affirm their identities.
  - c. Conversations, outreach and research led to language revisions on the website and registration forms.
    - i. “Co-ed” was added to boys and girls soccer leagues and an inclusive welcoming statement was developed for promotional flyers and the website.

- d. The Youth Team Sports department will review after the Spring 2022 soccer season and gather feedback from parents and coaches.
- e. Questions:
  - i. Naomi Goldberg commented that she appreciated all of the hard work and the conversation surrounding this issue.
  - ii. Stacey Ebron praised Rec & Ed for training the parent coaches.
  - iii. Glenn Nelson appreciated the approach and asked if the conversation included national origin, racial identity along with gender.
    - 1. Jenna Bacolor answered that in general sports have been a place for unity, and to our knowledge there have not been bullying or other situations related to national origin. If there was a question or situation, it would be addressed.
  - iv. Jenna Bacolor asked the group what they thought about the girls/co-ed. Should soccer be co-ed y5 through 5th grade?
    - 1. Larry O'Connell expressed concern about one co-ed league.
    - 2. Stacey Ebron echoed Larry's concern and hopes Rec & Ed preserves the option for a girls league. She asked if Rec & Ed looked at participation and demographics at each school. Do we lack participation at some schools?
      - a. Seth Dodson reported yes and that transportation was an issue for some families.
      - b. Jenna Bacolor stated that there has been difficulty finding coaches for some schools, and offered to have a discussion about this issue at a future RAC meeting.
    - 3. Hadil Ghoneim and Glenn Nelson mentioned they liked the girls having the option to play with the boys but would like to preserve a girls league.
      - a. Seth Dodson responded that they have always had the ability to choose.
    - 4. Glenn Nelson asked if it was possible to group teams by height or weight.
      - a. Seth Dodson replied no and mentioned that kids have the opportunity to play up or down a year.
    - 5. Rec & Ed works with parents to find the best placement for their student.

6. So far this spring, one student has registered using the “non-binary” option.
7. Stacey Ebron asked about placement on a particular team with friends.
  - a. Seth Dodson expressed the difficulty in placing 1300 students on teams. Rec & Ed groups by school. He also mentioned the removal of the late registration.

B. Next Steps for the Extended Day Program

- a. Jenna Bacolor detailed the successes and future plans for EDP
  - i. Rec & Ed redesigned before/after care and kept 5 programs open.
  - ii. Increased scholarships through grant funding and gave bonuses to staff and reimbursed parents for part of their tuition.
  - iii. Smaller programs help retain staff and form better relationships with students.
  - iv. EDP is working with U of M and their work study program.
  - v. EDP utilizes TA’s at each site.
  - vi. Future plans
    1. May add 2 new positions that have benefits and a higher pay rate.
    2. Provide programming at two additional sites.
  - vii. Questions
    1. Stacey Ebron asked how Rec & Ed will prioritize the next sites
      - a. Jenna Bacolor answered Title 1 schools will be a priority.

BRIEFING AGENDA

- A. Report from Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) - Josh Landefeld
  - a. PAC is working on their 5 year plan and sub committees
- B. Report from Parks and Recreation - Josh Landefeld
  - a. The city is still working through several retirements
  - b. Spring and Summer season focus is on the staff shortages
    - i. All temporary staff will be paid the living wage of \$15.56
    - ii. Virtual job fair March 16, 2022
- C. Report from Community Education & Recreation - Jenna Bacolor
  - a. No further report.

TRANSMITTALS - None

ADJOURNMENT - Larry O'Connell adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

The next RAC meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hepp  
Recording Secretary