

Minutes of the Recreation Advisory Commission  
Tuesday, October 11, 2022 6:30 P.M.  
Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT Nicholas Crowe, Stacy Ebron, Hadil Ghoneim, Larry O'Connell, Hannah Smith, Patti Smith, Ken Svoboda,

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT Jenna Bacolor, Donna Dishman, Josh Landefeld, Jen Eyer

GUESTS PRESENT Susanna Brown - Supervisor First Steps Early Childhood Division Rec & Ed

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Larry O'Connell called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.
- B. Larry O'Connell led round robin introductions of the members for our guest

II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the May 10, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Nicholas Crowe and seconded by Patti Smith that the meeting minutes of May 10, 2022 be approved. On a unanimous vote, Larry O'Connell declared the motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Annual Election for Chair and Vice-Chair of RAC
  - a. Jenna Bacolor asked for nominations from the floor
  - b. Patti Smith nominated Larry O'Connell for chair
    - i. Larry O'Connell accepted the nomination
  - c. Kurt Svoboda nominated Hadil Ghoneim for Chair
    - i. Hadil Ghoneim declined
  - d. Larry O'Connell nominated Hadil Ghoneim for Vice Chair
    - i. Hadil Ghoneim accepted the nomination
  - e. Jenna closed the nominations
  - f. Stacy Ebron moved to accept Larry O'Connell as the Chair and Patti Smith seconded the motion
    - i. No discussion
    - ii. Unanimous vote

- g. Kurt Svoboda moved to accept Hadil Ghoneim as the Vice Chair and Stacy Ebron seconded the motion
  - i. No discussion
  - ii. Unanimous vote
- B. Membership Subcommittee
  - a. Kurt Svoboda, Naomi Goldberg and Larry O'Connell met in August and reviewed the candidates interested in joining RAC
  - b. Allison Miller and Mark Brehob were selected by the committee
  - c. Jenna Bacolor will send the application forms and a voting form via email to the full RAC for approval to move forward to City Council.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation from Rec & Ed's First Steps Early Childhood Programs - Susanna Brown, Early Childhood Program Supervisor
  - a. Susanna Brown presented to the group about the [Early Childhood Programs](#)
  - b. Susanna Brown gave an overview of the department
    - i. The programs offered
    - ii. The population they serve
  - c. The pivot during 2020 was highlighted and the journey to regrowth after the pandemic was illustrated in the presentation
  - d. Families desired a place for their children to interact with other children in a safe space
    - i. Classes were held outdoors and in creative spaces like a heated, open barn
    - ii. Teachers transported curriculum materials and supplies to city parks and green spaces to continue teaching their programs
  - e. Preschool camps and Safety Town were offered in reduced numbers in Summer 2021 and back to pre-pandemic levels of participation in Summer 2022
  - f. Challenges for the Early Childhood program
    - i. Families feel more crowded in indoor spaces and ECH has responded with lower class sizes which generate less revenue
    - ii. A small percentage of families are not comfortable in the classrooms
    - iii. Outreach to new families
    - iv. Advertising the robust scholarship program to families
  - g. Questions and Comments

- i. Stacy Ebron thanked Susanna for the presentation and spoke to the wonderful program
      - 1. She suggested to partner with the AADL and local pediatric physicians and dentists to advertise programs
    - ii. Larry O'Connell thanked Susanna and commented that the program looked fantastic
  - B. Stacy Ebron asked to see data related to students of color, gender differences in participating in Rec & Ed activities to identify opportunity gaps
    - a. Jenna Bacolor responded Rec & Ed doesn't currently collect data on race or ethnicity and we will put it on our agenda for the winter meeting to discuss

## VI. BRIEFING AGENDA

- A. Report from Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) - Larry O'Connell
  - a. PAC has received briefings on the new bridge at Gallup park, the ice rinks and other improvements
  - b. The PROS plan has been finalized and will open for public review for 30 days
  - c. The ADA study at all parks will have a public forum to discuss accessibility at the main library on October 12, 2022 at 6:00pm
- B. Report from Parks and Recreation - Josh Landefeld
  - a. Parks and Recreation is hiring a deputy manager
  - b. Successful summer with increased numbers in participation after moving away from restrictions
  - c. Trick or Treat Paddle is Sunday, October 16, 2022
  - d. Preparing for the winter season in the parks
- C. Report from Community Education & Recreation - Jenna Bacolor
  - a. Jenna Bacolor will report to the school board on Wednesday, October 12
    - i. Fall updates about Rec & Ed
    - ii. Successful summer programming
    - iii. Update on Before/After care

## VII. TRANSMITTALS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - Stacy Ebron moved to adjourn the meeting and Hadil Ghoneim seconded the motion. After a unanimous vote, Larry O'Connell adjourned the meeting at 7:29 P.M.

The next RAC meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hepp  
Recording Secretary