

Minutes of Recreation Advisory Commission
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:30 PM

Rec & Ed Office

1515 S. Seventh St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

MEMBERS PRESENT Mark Brehob, Hannah Cary, Nicholas Crowe, Stacy Ebron, Aiden Kang, Irene Kim, Larry O'Connell

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT Jenna Bacolor, Josh Landefeld, Victor Morales-Rios, Sean Williams

GUESTS PRESENT Elyse Bairley – Rec & Ed Engagement Coordinator

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Hannah C. called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY – None

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the March 11, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Stacy that the meeting minutes of March 11, 2025 be approved. On a unanimous vote, Hannah C. declared the motion carried.

- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. [Joint Statement from Rec & Ed and the City of Ann Arbor](#)
 1. Mark B. asked about what is the cause for the fee being so high.
 - a) Sean responded it is the cost of field maintenance and that's not maintenance provided by the city.
 2. Mark asked how much they are being charged per field
 - a) Sean responded \$85 per field. This is per diamond regardless of the amount of time.
 3. Mark asked if other districts are subsidizing and if so, why are they not able to do the same.
 - a) Sean responded that the service gets bid out to several companies and they have one company that bid routinely.
 - b) Josh responded that having parks & rec and a community education department, they overlap and can be confusing. From the city, their primary purpose is to ensure youth sports and team sports can be as cost-effective as possible.
 - c) Josh mentioned that if they're going to subsidize they need to ensure that they're going to see higher cost and high net. The city is always willing to work with Rec & Ed to reduce costs.
 4. Larry mentioned that someone talked about there being fewer teams this year.
 - a) Sean said that is true and it historically has been the trend for the last few years.
 - b) Jenna mentioned that softball is not as popular as it used to be.
 5. Larry asked if this is why the fee has to be higher.
 - a) Sean responded that is based on games played and number of fields needing to be prepped. The slight changes in fees and then the reduction of expenses can make

- it so that they're not necessarily losing as much money by losing teams.
6. Stacy asked about bringing the bid services in house.
 - a) Sean said they do not have the staff ability to perform the service and lacking resources and equipment.
 7. Mark mentioned the millage
 - a) Josh mentioned that the city has a cap amount. In order for a city-wide millage to take place, that would need to go in front of city council.
 8. Larry asked how many games does a team get in the season.
 - a) Sean said 20 games in a season

B. Membership Updates

1. Membership Updates
2. Second term votes for Hannah Smith & Stacy Ebron
 - a) Vote for Hannah Smith
 - A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Mark to approve a second term for Hannah S. On a unanimous vote, Hannah C. declared the motion carried.
 - b) Vote for Stacy Ebron
 - A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Mark to approve a second term for Stacy. On a unanimous vote, Hannah C. declared the motion carried.
3. Last meeting as a RAC member for Naomi Goldberg
4. Last meeting as a City Council appointed member for Larry O'Connell

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation: [High School Volunteer Program](#) – Elyse Bairley

1. Program Overview
 - a) Volunteer program serving high school students for 16 years
 - b) Providing meaningful community service opportunities
 - c) Volunteer camp selection process
 - d) Summer 2025: 166 camps
 - e) 100 students currently applied
2. Program Goals
 - a) Volunteer program serving high school students for 16 years
 - b) Providing meaningful community service opportunities
 - c) Volunteer camp selection process
 - d) Summer 2025: 166 camps
 - e) 100 students currently applied
3. Continuous Improvement Process
 - a) Data Collection - End of Summer 2024
 - Volunteer survey and in depth 1:1 conversations
 - Summer Camp staff feedback
 - Rec & Ed admin staff feedback
 - b) Analysis
 - c) Action for Summer 2025
4. Key Findings from Data Collection
 - a) Scheduling and Camp Assignments
 - Volunteers prefer more clear information up front about schedules, start/end times and expectations
 - b) Logging Volunteer Hours

- Volunteers prefer more clear instructions
 - c) Communication and Support
 - Volunteers suggested reminders about schedules ahead of time
 - d) Camp Activities and Supervision
 - Work with camp supervisors to design engaging activities that maximize volunteer talents while meeting camp needs
- 5. Action Steps
 - a) Scheduling and Camp Assignments
 - Added more details to HSVP website information and more details
 - b) Logging Volunteer Hours
 - Create clearer instructions for logging volunteer hours in Better impact which I will review at the mandatory training
 - c) Communication and Support
 - Schedule email reminders for camp 1 week ahead of time each summer.
 - Try our best to follow up within 48 hours
 - d) Camp Activities and Supervision
 - Continue to properly train volunteers on staff expectations.
- 6. Hopeful Result & Impact
 - a) More Reach
 - Increase awareness for students across AAPS schools
 - b) Future Job Exploration
 - Students can discover career paths in a relaxed setting, potentially leading to opportunities with Rec & Ed
 - c) Skill Development
 - Foster student growth through community building

B. Comments

1. Stacy mentioned advertisement and reaching out to schools and having them put the flyer in the advisory slides
 - a) Elyse mentioned that she sent the flyer to counselors and principals
2. Mark asked a question about tracking hours
 - a) Elyse replied that students need a certain number of hours through school, NHS or for college applications

VI. BRIEFING AGENDA

A. Report from PAC – Josh Landefeld

1. Last meeting was about the budget
 - a) Approval of fee increases
 - b) Overall Parks budget
 - c) Farmers Market office done
 - d) Prep for projects

B. Report from Parks & Recreation – Victor Morales-Rios

1. Busy Spring season so far
2. Farmers Market moved
3. Shelter down at Vets Park
4. Vets diamond #4 is no longer a dog park. Some damage to field
 - a) Larry asked about feedback on the dog park
 - b) Victor replied it was very positive and the west side of town has been asking for a dog park for a while
 - c) Josh mentioned co-existing with Rec & Ed about the future of the dog park
5. Bicentennial splash pad project is starting in next couple of weeks
6. Allmendinger construction update

C. Report from Community Education & Recreation – Sean Williams

1. Spring adult team sports had begun
2. Registration for youth team sports closed
3. Summer camps and classes starting soon
4. Childcare registration for 25-26 school year opens on May 15th
 - a) Providing care at all K-5 elementary schools
 - b) A few schools will be bussed to share care at another site
 - c) Providing more care to families this year
 - d) Mark asked if this is for before and after care as well
 - Sean & Jenna replied that they are offering before care at 13 sites and after care for 16 sites with bussing for some
 - e) Mark asked if K-5 includes Ann Arbor Open
 - Sean replied that does not include Ann Arbor Open or A2STEAM
 - Jenna mentioned that those schools have outside providers
 - a. Ann Arbor Open is at the Y
 - b. A2STEAM is at Gretchen's House
 - Jenna said when they surveyed at Ann Arbor Open, there was not much interest

VII. TRANSMITTALS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Stacy motioned to adjourn the meeting and Larry seconded the motion. After a unanimous vote, Hannah C. adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm