Minutes of Recreation Advisory Commission
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 6:30 PM
Rec & Ed Office
1515 S. Seventh St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

MEMBERS PRESENT Mark Brehob, Jodi Hecker, Irene Kim, Conor Neville, Larry O'Connell, Hannah Smith & Ciara Witt

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT Jenna Bacolor, Victor Morales-Rios, Rima Muhammad & Sean Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER
   A. Mark called the meeting to order at 6:40pm

II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the May 12, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Conor and seconded by Ciara that the meeting minutes of May 12, 2026 be approved. On a unanimous vote, Mark declared the motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Annual election for Chair and Vice-Chair of RAC - vote required
      1. Mark asked for nominations for Chair
         a) Mark expressed interest and accepted the nomination
      2. Mark asked for nominations for Vice Chair
         a) Larry expressed interest and accepted the nomination
      3. Mark closed nominations
      4. Mark Brehob was unanimously elected to serve as Chair, and Larry O'Connell was unanimously elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Recreation Advisory Commission for the 2026-27 term

V. NEW BUSINESS
   A. Presentation: Rec & Ed 25-26 Program Highlights - Jenna Bacolor & Sean Williams
      1. Overview
         a) Community Division Focus Areas
            - Access and Equity
            - Learning for a Lifetime
            - Health, Well-Being, Joy
            - Building Community

         b) Where Can You Find the Community Division?
            - A2schools.org
               a. Students & Families Tab
               b. Community Tab

c. Departments Tab
- aarecedonline.com

c) Community Services Fund Budget
- Special revenue fund solely for Rec & Ed
- Not part of General Fund
- ~$6 million/year
- Self-sustaining
- Personnel
    a. Rec & Ed has
        - ~30 full-time staff
        - 45 part-time child care staff
        - 100s of part-time seasonal staff
        - 100s of volunteers

- Revenues
    a. Program fees
    b. Sponsorships
    c. Grants and donations

- Expenses
    a. Personnel - salaries and benefits
    b. Program supplies and equipment
    c. Contracted services

d) Questions
- Mark asked about the breakdown of what revenue comes from program fees versus grants and donations
    a. Jenna responded that program fees account for the large majority, approximately 90-95%, with grants, donations, and sponsorships providing a smaller share
- Mark asked about if the grants are by year
    a. Jenna confirmed that the grants are awarded annually and mentioned that they recently applied for another grant. She also noted that they received funding through MiLEAP.
- Jodi asked if this is all of Rec & Ed, the staff listed and budget
    a. Jenna responded that it is all of Rec & Ed

2. Community Education & Recreation (Rec & Ed)
    a) Program Areas
    - Early Childhood
        a. Preschool Classes and Camps
        b. First Steps Parent/Child Classes for 0-5 year olds

    - Before/After Care & Summer Camps

a. Before/After Care Program
b. Summer Camps - Enrichment and Sport Camps
c. Safety Town Summer Program for Rising Kinders

- Youth and Adult Enrichment, Fitness & Yoga
  a. Youth Enrichment Classes
  b. Instructional Sports Classes
  c. Adult Enrichment, Fitness, and Yoga Classes

- Team Sports
  a. Youth and Adult League Sports
  b. Tennis

b) Rec & Ed Registrations 2021-2026
- Registrations include:
  a. Early childhood programs
  b. Before/After Care
  c. Youth enrichment classes
  d. Family workshops
  e. Youth and adult league sports
  f. School break and summer camps
  g. Adult enrichment, fitness, and yoga
- 2021-22: 24,208
- 2022-23: 27,818
- 2023-24: 28,254
- 2024-25: 29,331
- 2025-26: 29,451

c) Rec & Ed Registrations 2025-26
- Youth Team Sports: 8,789
- Youth Enrichment: 2,740
- Youth Camps and Safety Town: 4,237
- Adult Team Sports: 5,852
- Adult Enrichment, Fitness and Yoga: 5,173
- Before/After Care: 3 year enrollment trend
  a. 2023-24: 310
  b. 2024-25: 495
  c. 2025-26: 633

d) Rec & Ed 2025-26 Highlights
- Supporting Access and Opportunity
  a. Safety Town on the Go at Pittsfield Elementary
     - Looking to expand to other schools and reach more students who are not able to attend the summer camp

b. Using MiLEAP Out-of-School Time Grant Funding, they provided 35+ scholarships for full day, week-long summer camps
c. About $9,000 in fee waivers
d. Also worked with Avalon Housing

- New Sponsors and Partners
    a. Sponsorship Program Refresh
        - 11 sponsors totaling to $63,000
        - 33% increase over 24-25
        - aarecedonline.com/sponsorships
        - New partnership with Wolverine Pickleball
        - New partnership with Maker Works

e) Looking ahead to 2026-27
- Fall Fun for Everyone!
- Stay connected to Rec & Ed by signing up for newsletters and following on social media platforms
- Visit their website at aarecedonline.com

f) Questions
- Rima asked about how the current enrollment compares with pre-COVID participation
    a. Sean responded that they are a little under pre-COVID but gaining more and getting closer
    b. Jenna mentioned that it is a little lower but at the same time that the district enrollment has gone down, Rec & Ed numbers continue to go up
- Ciara asked if some program areas operate at a lower percentage of available capacity than others
    a. Sean responded that they take as many teams as possible, so hard to put a percentage. Camps keep improving. Some of their activities are at capacity and with long wait lists
    b. Jenna mentioned that some numbers were down and they sometimes have to make a decision to discontinue programs if they are not generating revenue
- Jodi asked if the after care Safety Town option was newly introduced
    a. Sean responded that they have been doing that for a few years now
- Jodi mentioned contacting the PTOs about Safety Town on the Go
- Hannah S. mentioned excitement about seeing the after care numbers grow since the discussion a couple of years ago
    a. Sean mentioned that they do not have care at all schools. After care is offered to all elementary schools including A2STEAM.

Ann Arbor Open has private care. Some schools do share and get bussed to another school

- Rima asked how many schools share after care
    a. Sean responded that 3 schools currently share. Haisley goes to Abbot, Pittsfield goes to Mitchell, and Pattengill goes to Bryant
- Irene asked about how many people are signed up for the Rec & Ed newsletters
    a. Jenna responded that there are approximately 9,000 for youth and 11,000 for adult newsletters. They can see how many people opened them
- Mark asked about RAC receiving a list of facilities, equipment, or other resources Rec & Ed lacks
    a. Sean responded that they could provide that
- Jodi asked about who handles the grant writing and much staff time does it require
    a. Jenna responded that she is the grant writer for Rec & Ed and the workload varies considerably depending on available opportunities
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VI. BRIEFING AGENDA

A. Report from PAC – Hannah Smith

1. May meeting
    a) Update on Ann Arbor Skatepark
        - All Girls Skate Program
        - Peace Skate - collaboration with Peace Neighborhood Center

2. June meeting
    a) Vets Park Presentation
    b) Bicentennial Park opened
    c) Presentation on Beaver Management Plan from Washtenaw County Drain Commission

3. July meeting
    a) Vets Park presentation and update from tornado damage in April
        - 1.5 million in rehabilitation work
        - Still working on final plan for this
        - Pool was opened but building was closed
    b) Approved resolutions for contractors and services

4. August meeting
    a) Survey for Bicentennial Park
    b) Approved resolution to authorize publication of a notice of intent to issue capital improvements bonds
    c) Approved resolution to rename 2570 Dexter Road Park to Dr. George Henry Jewett II Park and will be completed this fall
    d) Approved a resolution regarding the demolition of the West Park bandshell

5. Questions?
    a) Mark asked if the bandshell is gone for good
        - Hannah responded yes it is gone for now

B. Report from Parks & Recreation – Victor Morales-Rios
    1. Conclusion of the outdoor pool season

    2. Working toward opening Mack Pool, described ongoing work and access related issues and reduced hours

    3. Vets Park
        a) Future of Vets
        b) Fixed fencing around the baseball fields
        c) Field lighting remains unavailable pending repairs

    4. Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan
        a) Presenting at December RAC meeting

    5. Closure affecting a bicycle/commuter route due to structural safety concerns was also discussed

C. Report from Community Education & Recreation – Sean Williams
    1. Early Childhood (ECH) Fall Fest
        a) Celebrating 25 years of First Steps

    2. Fall registration is ongoing and enrollments are increasing

    3. After Care
        a) Opening at A2STEAM
        b) Showing great numbers at sites
        c) Some sites currently have waitlists

    4. Out-of-School Time (OST) Grant
        a) Expecting notification at end of October

    5. Team Sports
        a) Registration open for youth flag football and indoor soccer classes

VII. TRANSMITTALS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Ciara motioned to adjourn the meeting and Larry seconded the motion. After a unanimous vote, Mark adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm