

PERINTON RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 22, 2014

PRESENT: Chair Al Chesonis, Advisory Board Members Mike Coppola, Jim Donahue, Paul Fioravanti, Cheryl Hanzlik, Jayne LaFay, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks Jeff Myers, Director of Recreation Diane Riesenberger and Director of Parks Stacey Estrich.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the April 24, 2014 minutes by Board member Jim Donahue, seconded by Board member Paul Fioravanti, minutes approved.

GUESTS: Julie Eble, Teen Program Coordinator
Marc Hoffman, Teen Mentor
Gary Finlayson, Ian Benz, Alexis Diaz – Unplugged Participants

COMMISSIONER MYERS' REPORT

RECREATION LEADER SEARCH UPDATE

We have completed our 1st round of interviews. We interviewed a total of 9 candidates for the Recreation Leader position. We will be asking four of those candidates to come back for a second interview. These will take place in early June.

JOSH DILLON RESIGNATION

On Tuesday, April 29th, Josh Dillon announced that he would be resigning his Recreation Leader position and moving to Oregon. He simply wants a change of scenery, and to take on all new challenges in a different environment. His last day of work will be Thursday, May 29th. As a result, the staff is considering a couple of options in regards to filling the vacancy. These options will be discussed with Finance Director Kevin Spacher and Supervisor Mike Barker.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

There is no updated information regarding our Deposit to Supervisor. Finance Clerk, Cathy Keating has been out of the office for the last two weeks.

COMMUNITY CENTER AUDIO EQUIPMENT

Some of the original audio equipment installed in the community center when it was built is beginning to fail. We are in the process of replacing the audio components (amplifier, tuner, CD player, and mixer) in the aerobics studio, and the tuner in the gymnasium has just been replaced.

WATER MAIN INSTALLATION AND REPLACEMENT

We have been informed by the Monroe County Water Authority that they will be installing and replacing some water main lines along Turk Hill Road, between the cemetery and Hillway Drive.

O'CONNOR ROAD REALIGNMENT PROJECT

The project is moving along nicely. Sidewalks have been poured, curbs installed, and the base of the new road has been laid. Work will require a complete shutdown of O'Connor Road, from 31F to the northeast entrance of the lower parking lot of the park. May 27th has been announced as the day the road will be closed. It is expected to be closed for about four weeks. This will require that the patrons of Perinton Park use Whitney Road, to O'Connor Road, to access the park. Signs will be posted, and we will inform all of our reserving groups of the road closure.

DIRECTOR ESTRICH'S REPORT

NEW FEATURES

Boy Scout, Tomas Chesonis, from Troop 208 completed his Eagle Scout project. The project was a complete renovation of the volleyball courts. New poles, nets, string, sand and two new benches topped off the project. He did an outstanding job!

The first Community Garden work day occurred on April 26 with over 50 people in attendance. It was a remarkable turn out. The next two are scheduled for this Saturday, May 24 and next Saturday, May 31.

The park offices received a new copier. A huge thank you to Jim Donahue for IT support.

OPERATIONS – “SPRING PARKS OPENINGS”

As of May 3, all gates, restrooms and buildings are opened, cleaned and closed by park seasonal staff and night guards on a daily basis.

The Erie Canal opened Friday, May 2. This same week the parks staff installed the Bushnell's Basin docks, ramps and opened the facilities.

The amphitheatre shell installation was completed on Tuesday, May 20. The first event is Relay for Life, May 31-June 1, at Center Park. The new lower portion was installed with no issues.

Summer seasonal park staff is slowly returning and will be up to full capacity in the next week or two.

There have been many electrical issues at Bushnell's Basin, Perinton Park and Center Park plus bulbs out at tennis courts. To date, all issues have been resolved.

Athletic fields are open and ready for play as long as the weather is favorable. Potter and Fellows soccer fields are still heavily saturated along with Garnsey Arboretum, Howell Road and Beechwoods making them unmowable.

The Town is participating in the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge On May 29 with a total of 24 participants.

Due to the heavy rainfall last Friday, the sump pump in the lower level of the Lion's Den quit working. Tuesday, the Town Sewer Department helped blow out the old clay storm drains and pipes. Massive roots had clogged the pipes, back logging water into the lower level. All is fixed and damage avoided to wall and floor boards.

The Parks Department is working with another intern from St. John Fisher. Anthony Van Scott is graduating this May with a Sports Management degree. His internship will focus on special events and park operations.

DIRECTOR RIESENBERGER'S REPORT

RECREATION PROGRAMS

RECTRAC

Summer 2014 registration is currently at \$162,536.00.

There are 1,719 participants enrolled in 355 classes.

Summer 2013 registration at this time last year \$158,640.00.

Spring 2014 registration is currently at \$141,678.00.

Spring 2013 registration at this time last year \$145,827.00.

FACILITY USAGE

May totals as of May 20: 34 reservations for a total of \$3,496.00.

Year to Date 2104: 210 reservations for a total of \$28,983.00.

Year to Date 2013: 192 reservations for a total of \$23,833.00.

PROGRAM REVIEWS

CENTER STAGE

The Center Stage Committee will meet on Monday, June 2. All planning and logistics are on schedule. We are looking forward to the season opener on Sunday, July 6 featuring the Paulsen and Baker Band.

Upcoming amphitheater reservations:

5/31-6/1 – Relay for Life (American Cancer Society)

6/6 – “Sing for DeJoy of It” (Pittsford School District Memorial Concert)

6/15 – Bethlehem Lutheran Church Service/Picnic

SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS

All staff positions are filled. The Department of Health Certification has been submitted. Staff have verbally been approved pending proof of First Aid/CPR certifications. All training will be completed June 13. Orientation for staff will be held June 25-27. The program begins on Monday, June 30. Registration numbers to date are in line with last year's.

MOTHER- DAUGHTER TEA

On Saturday, May 10 mothers, daughters and grandmothers enjoyed an afternoon of refreshments, dancing and making memories. Photo frames decorated with butterflies and necklaces along with coloring pages kept everyone busy. A photo area was set up for picture taking.

SPORTS

Men's Doubles Tennis on Monday nights began on May 5. They use 6 courts at Perinton Park for their 48 enrollees. Senior Tennis on Wednesday evenings began May 14. They have 60 members utilizing 8 total courts. Final total gross revenue for Youth Soccer was \$11,778.00. The FAST classes run by Marcie Callan, held mostly at Turin, are doing well. An advantage to holding programs there is the turf field which avoids cancellations. Programs held there include; multi sports for preschoolers, youth and adult tennis. The Thursday Bicycling group has begun their season with 90 members. Between 40 and 50 riders join each week, weather dependent.

AQUATICS

The quarterly unannounced health inspection took place on May 9. We passed with flying colors and the inspector had great things to say about our operation. Splash Parties remain popular. May totals to date; Friday nights/13 parties (\$2,065), Saturdays/17 parties (\$2,867), Sundays/9 parties (\$1,445) totaling \$6,377. College lifeguards are returning and completing their recertification process. We will be conducting 12 interviews with new lifeguard candidates during the next couple of weeks. We plan to hire 4-6 new guards at this time. Aquatic Story Time was held at the Fairport Library on Monday, May 19. We are working on a marketing campaign for group lesson retention through a new bracelet system and a poster advertising campaign. Spring lessons and private lessons have been very successful. We are enrolled in the American Red Cross Learn-To-Swim program for the 2014 season. This gives us access to additional materials not previously available. All moms were invited to swim free on Sunday, May 11 in honor of Mother's Day. Each Wednesday in May, in celebration of National Aquatic Safety Month, swimmers can enjoy the pool for Open Swim from 3:30-9:00pm for only one dollar!

RECTRAC

We will be converting our RecTrac from 10.2 to 10.3 on August 26. We are looking forward to the new capabilities this new upgrade has to offer. Staff will be training earlier in August on this new software.

TOWN MASCOT

Peri attended the Mighty Machine Mania event on Saturday, April 26. There were 249 in attendance enjoying the many vehicles on display. The event ended a bit early due to the downpour. Peri was also invited to make a public appearance to second grade students at Jefferson Avenue School. The students were studying "Our Community" and requested a visit from our Town mascot. Supervisor Mike Barker accompanied Peri and a great time was had by all. Coupons for \$10.00 off a summer playground registration at Jefferson Avenue School were distributed.

Teen Center

On Wednesday, May 21 a group of teens and adults worked in the Community Garden with Jurij Kushner in a new program called "Planting by the Phases of the Moon". The group will determine whether there is validity to the theory that root crops grow bigger when planted prior to a full moon. Similarly, leaf crops do better when planted in a diminished moon phase. The Phase One and Phase Two planting dates coincide with the waxing and waning of the moon. The group will measure results to see if this theory is supported. An enthusiastic group of fifth graders, along with parents and siblings, attended the Open House for the incoming class of Teen Center members on Wednesday, May 21. Several Teen Advisory Board members, as well as staff members, were on hand to give tours and answer questions. Numerous field trips and activities are being offered over the summer to get them interested in the Teen Center before the new school year begins.

55+

On Thursday, May 1 a group traveled to see the play "Fox on the Fairway" performed by the Penfield Players. On Tuesday, May 6 mothers were honored with a Mother's Day Tea. Amy Walts entertained the crowd playing the harp. "Thanksgiving in May" on Tuesday, May 13 was a big hit. Over 60 were in attendance enjoying turkey and all the trimmings for lunch. Exercise classes remain strong. Since becoming a Silver and Fit endorsed facility, many classes are beginning to see new faces. Wednesday, May 28 is National Senior Health and Fitness Day. The Fitness Area, land and water aerobics classes and the Aquatic Center will be free to all those 55+ during designated parts of the day. A healthy Baked Salmon lunch will be served for a nominal fee of \$4.00. In addition, Health and Wellness seminars and free blood pressure checks will be given. Our hope is to gather new interest from this population by offering a variety of activities to remain healthy and strong. (Flyer included).

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Rob Goodenow completed his internship on May 9. He developed a Marketing plan for the department. We wish him the best of luck. We have an intern, Amanda Maltzhan from Lancaster Bible College starting with us on May 28. This will be a three week practicum.

Jeff Nutting and Diane Riesenberger attended the Aging Services Workshop on Thursday, May 15 at the Brighton Memorial Library. Representatives from many organizations explained their services to raise awareness of how effective interaction can serve our senior community and explore ways to work cooperatively.

Jeff Myers and Jeff Nutting were invited to the May Rotary meeting. They discussed the history of the department and the benefits recreation and parks provides the community.

Many Recreation staff members attended the Genesee Valley Recreation and Park Society, Inc. Annual Meeting at Black Creek Park in North Chili on Wednesday, May 21. Larry Staub, Director of Monroe County Parks, gave a presentation on the history of the many parks the county has and their amenities. He also spoke about partnering services with the Towns. It was very educational.

Josh Dillon announced his resignation with the Town (effective May 29) at the beginning of the month. Josh has decided to pursue new adventures in Portland, Oregon. He has been a wonderful asset to our department in many ways. Josh would like to thank the Advisory Board for their continued support during his tenure. He has been meeting with staff members to go over transition details.

We have trained two new building managers who will cover mostly summer hours and Josh's vacated evening shift. Our next Building Manager's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28.

E-NEWSLETTER - Will be mailed to 1,283 interested next week.

MARKETING REPORT – Enclosed

PCC magnets and informational material were placed in the "goodie bags" distributed to all who participated in the Residential "Green Day" in Perinton on Saturday, May 17.

JULIE EBLE'S TEEN CENTER REPORT

REVIEW POWER POINT SLIDES

Trust has been gained and a strong relationship has been built with the FCSD/community. Julie is very involved with the schools and has been the driving force behind the 9 years of the program's success.

Effective promotion of our programming to teens and parents through principal e-news and e-flyers.

Three mainstay programs: Detours After School Program (Grades 6-8), Saturday Activity Night Program (Grades 6-9), Unplugged Program (Grades 9-12).

Keep mission alive by adding new programming every year and eliminating programs which have run their course. The Teen Center is constantly evolving.

Invited into Martha Brown and Johanna Perrin Middle School Grade 5-6 Parent Orientations every April to give a brief overview of the Teen Center and our programs.

During presentation, highlight our Welcome Party for 5th Graders. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

Also offer Open House in mid-September as new school year of programs begin.

WHAT'S NEW OVER PAST TWO YEARS

Teens work in the Perinton Community Garden; twice in the spring, once in the fall.

Coat Drive added during month of October to help keep those in need within our community warm (Distribute at schools and Pines of Perinton).

Bird of Prey Demonstration past two falls during Detours After School Program.

Make "Cards of Thanks" for soldiers including the family of Pfc. Grant Wise.

Revenue from 360* Ministries (youth group) that met monthly at the Teen Center for 1 ½ years.

Continue to recognize and nominate our teen volunteers for numerous awards including the Young Citizens of the Year Award. Able to write reference letters due to their commitment to volunteering at Teen Center programs.

Added Go-Kart Racing program for the past two summers.

This past March, two gentlemen from the Sr. Men's Billiards Club came into the Detours After School Program to give the teens billiards lessons; forming a wonderful bond.

This past fall non-perishable food items were collected to donate to the *We've Got Your Backpack* Program. Teens are currently collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the Perinton Food Shelf to help them keep their pantry stocked during the summer months when kids are home from school.

WHAT'S NEW COMING UP

Summer

Sky Zone field trip, and due to popularity of program, adding a Foodlink volunteer opportunity.

Due to the positive reception of the Billiards Club by the teens, this fall plan to add more intergenerational lessons; such as tennis, pickle ball, and knitting. Will meet with Kim Zeck to discuss options. Also, will look into adding Health and Wellness sessions once a month this coming year.

Changing the "Army Adoption Committee" to "Veterans Adoption Committee" to show commitment to our veterans, as well as soldiers currently serving overseas.

For the past 8 years have had a Teen Talent Show over the February break. Next February, will change it up a bit. Plan to offer a Dinner Dance or music during a senior citizen dinner or lunch.

STRONG STAFF RETENTION/CONSISTENCY ACROSS TEEN CENTER PROGRAMS

Staff members who have been with us for many years are valuable mentors.

Recruit new Teen Center staff members from the Summer Playground Program by speaking to them at the June orientation to keep young, energetic supervisors on board.

TEEN CENTER FOCUS

The focus is not on making money, but keeping our youth safe and happy by getting them involved in our wide spectrum of programming.

WORK ON BAREBONES BUDGET

Due to decreasing State Aid, this is the first year we have charged a nominal fee for the Saturday Activity Night program to help defray the cost of staffing and snacks. (\$20 for the year = less than .75 per program). There has been no negative impact as the result of the fee charged.

Collect revenue from EZ Bottle and Can Return donation program.

Look to community for donations. (Keep spares such as TV's and foosball tables upstairs in storage.) On our current Wish List are a Play Station 4 and a "mini gym".

TEEN INTRODUCTIONS

We would like to introduce two of our loyal teens who have grown up with our programs. It is most valuable for you to hear directly from them what keeps them coming back to the Teen Center.

Marc Hoffman is a junior at FHS, who attended the Saturday Activity Night program as a student during grades 6-9. For the past two years, Marc has donated his time to be a Mentor Volunteer and acts as a role model to the younger students who attend the program. Marc loves his involvement with the Teen Center Program and is engaged with the participants in whatever they want to do. The kids who attend find a positive environment and enjoy the unstructured atmosphere. They feel like they belong whether they are by themselves or part of a group.

Gary Finlayson, Ian Benz and Alexis Diaz are seniors at FHS. They are members of two bands that have performed at the Unplugged program and have been involved for the past three years. They first played at an Unplugged performance in December of 2011; and it was there that they gained the inspiration and confidence to continue with their love of performing. Their band, Ivy's Panic Room recently placed 2nd in the Rochester City Battle of the Bands, and will be playing for their classmates at the Raider Poluzza on Friday, May 23. When asked by Chair Chesonis what they would change about the Teen Center or its programming, they replied the building and program are great just the way they are! Jayne LaFay also commented on the positive feedback from teens on the welcoming nature of the Teen Center. Director Riesenberger encouraged them to please consider coming back to mentor the teens as staff.

AROUND THE TABLE

Chair Chesonis thanked Julie and the teens for attending the meeting and sharing the Teen Center information; which included viewpoints from the staff as well as the teens.

Board member, Jim Donahue expressed his thanks to board members who supported the vote for the Fairport Library renovation.

Good luck was wished to the Teens by Director Riesenberger as they prepare for their graduation from high school in June.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm. The next Advisory Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Perinton Community Center in Room 211.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie C. Kayser
Secretary