

PERINTON RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2011

PRESENT: Vice Chair Mike Coppola, Advisory Board Members Cheryl Hanzlik, Jayne LaFay, Dave Schaeffer, Stephen VanVreede, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks Jeff Myers, Director of Recreation Diane Riesenberger and Director of Parks Stacey Estrich.

GUESTS: Ashley Krasicki, Intern, Recreation and Leisure Management Program, SUNY Brockport

MINUTES: Motion to approve the April 28, 2011 minutes by Board member Dave Schaeffer, seconded by Board member Jayne LaFay; minutes approved.

COMMISSIONER MYERS' REPORT

Promotion of Jeff Nutting to Recreation Supervisor

At the Wednesday, May 11th Town Board meeting, the board approved the promotion of Jeff Nutting from Recreation Leader to Recreation Supervisor. The promotion is a reflection of his dedication, professionalism, expertise and strong desire to excel.

Meeting with Humane Society of Greater Rochester

On Tuesday, May 24, Parks Director Estrich, Ashley Krasicki and I met with Alice Calabrese, President and CEO; and Adrienne McHargue, Director of Communications and Outreach for the Humane Society of Greater Rochester. We discussed the status of the renovations project at Egypt Park, as part of the long term lease agreement signed September, 2008. The primary purpose of the meeting was to inform the HS administration of the preliminary plans for the renovation, discuss options, and associated costs. They were asked for their input on the project, a list of their priorities, and possible fundraising ideas and partnerships. It was a very positive meeting, and opened the lines of communication between the agencies.

Financial Update

The deposit to the Supervisor for May was \$184,458.01. This amount is \$5,558.15 more than May of 2010. We are now \$14,437.60 behind 2010 year to date income. The year to date difference continues to fluctuate as some months show increased revenue, while others show a decrease. However, our year to date expenses continue to track lower than last year's.

Nutting to Apply for Externship

Jeff Nutting will be submitting an application for an NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) Annual Congress Externship, offered by the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA). The externship enables outstanding young professionals to attend NRPA Congress, and interact with and learn from AAPRA members. If awarded the externship, Jeff's registration fee to the congress will be covered by AAPRA, as well as up to \$750 in travel expenses to and from Congress. I have written a Letter of Support for Jeff as his department head, and Jim Donahue is writing one as a member of AAPRA.

Budget Expense/Revenue/Recovery Comparison

A recent article in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, that focused on municipal spending for parks and recreation, generated interest in a comparison study of local park and recreation budgets; and how much of their expenses are recovered through fees and charges. Through this comparison study, it was noted that Perinton is near the top of the list when it comes to the percentage of department expenses recovered through revenues. As a general industry rule, the revenue drawn in from building, shelter and field rentals is minimal when compared to the costs to operate and maintain the park system. This will draw down the overall recovery percentage of the department; however, the other benefits (property values, quality of life) of maintaining a

quality park system certainly make up the difference qualitatively. An informal spreadsheet of the comparison has been included with this report.

Bushnell's Basin Dock Project Opening

The Bushnell's Basin Dock Project is nearing completion. The town has scheduled Saturday, July 16th as the official Grand Opening of the facility. A number of meetings have been held with the merchants in the Basin area to determine marketing opportunities and what to include with the grand opening celebration.

Job Well Done

I'd like to include in this report my appreciation for a continued job well done for the parks department. Considering all of the rain we have received this spring, the parks staff has done a phenomenal job at getting the fields in safe, playable condition at the earliest possible moment. While other agencies are keeping their fields closed until at least after Memorial Day, Stacey and her crews have continually monitored conditions at each field on a day to day basis, and made determinations whether each field is playable on that given day. That exemplifies our commitment to provide the opportunities for recreation in the safest, most efficient manner.

DIRECTOR ESTRICH'S REPORT

Events and Community

On April 30th the Arbor Day Celebration at Garnsey Arboretum was postponed, rescheduled and now canceled for this weekend. Garnsey Arboretum is flooded.

Teen Mulch Day was May 7th and United Way Day of Caring (CTA) May 11th. Both events were terrific. The Teens went through 10 cubic yards of mulch plus removed some sod for us. Over 15 Xerox members helped CTA association work on the Midlands project (trail clearing).

Mayor Fritz May has agreed to a village Public Hearing to discuss a community garden at Potter Park. Diane and I met with gardening members and are prepared for the presentation. The informational meeting is set for Wednesday, June 8th, 7pm at the Lion's Den. We welcome your support.

Operations

Town auction results were fabulous. We estimated about \$19,130.00 and the actual earnings are \$26,064.00. Once again our equipment was in superior shape and is becoming a popular attraction to auctioneers. The two new vehicles on order are due to arrive mid to late June.

On May 14 the Erie Canal officially opened and the Ayrault Boat Launch gate removed for boaters. There was a 2 week delay due to high waters and flooding along portions of the canal system.

Athletic Fields have been frustrating to say the least. For the first time yesterday, May 25, we opened all soccer fields; and all but one softball field is open. It has been very challenging, but new ideas are born, patience is learned and a new day begins. In addition to mowing delays, we have not applied any pesticides. The Turfgrass Association has warned agencies and companies of the dangers of high water tables and runoff. We are fortunate that our fields are in very good shape with a second window of opportunity this fall.

Jeff and I met with the Humane Society to discuss Egypt Park improvements. The next steps are a cultural study, DEC application, Town Board approvals and Humane Society feedback. The improvements are for a shelter, dog park, playground and parking lot with loop. They requested restrooms restorations but are not part of the lease agreement focus points.

Scott Allen attended a Cornell Cooperative Webinar session Monday night about Turfgrass updates and reports from neighboring counties.

DIRECTOR RIESENBERGER'S REPORT

Recreation Programs

Spring 2011 registration is currently at \$168,817.50.

There are 3,580 participants enrolled in 345 classes.

Summer 2011 registration is currently at \$195,469.00.

There are 2,171 participants enrolled in 284 classes.

Facility Usage

May totals as of May 25: 24 reservations for a total income of \$4,281.00.

Year to Date: 228 reservations for a total income of \$31,301.50.

Program Reviews

Mother Daughter Tea

On Saturday, May 7, moms, daughters and grandmothers enjoyed tea, punch and desserts together. We had 66 in attendance. New this year was the addition of a photographer with a special backdrop. They charged \$10 per photo and we were given \$5 for each photo taken.

Tropical Bingo

This program was held on Friday evening, May 13. There were 41 participants playing Bingo, winning prizes and eating pizza and cookies.

Old Fashioned Country Dance

For the first time we held a family-friendly country dance. A caller led the group through the steps and no dancing experience was required. There were 34 in attendance.

Youth Soccer

As of Monday, May 23 there were zero games played out of 37 scheduled youth soccer games. We have been able to resume play these past few days. We will be extending soccer one week until June 25. We are also replacing a few scheduled practices with games on a few selected weeknights in June. Games will also be played over the Memorial Day weekend. We have also moved the Ultimate Frisbee Tournament to Spring Lake Park to accommodate more games. In lieu of refunds, we are discussing giving family swim passes to thank everyone for their patience, since we have no control over the weather.

Adult Softball

Again, due to the inclement weather, 27 out of 56 scheduled adult softball games have been played. This has been costly because the Parks staff preps the field with chalk and drying agent which ends up being washed away. This all has to be repeated on the day the game is made up. Sometimes the umpires show up at the field and have to cancel on sight, then get paid a second time, whenever the game is actually played. The weather has been frustrating to say the least to everyone.

We are doing the best we can to keep parents and players happy.

Outdoor Pickleball

Due to requests from our Pickleball participants to play outdoors, we are constructing two side-by-side north and south courts at Potter Park. These will be located on the south end of the basketball courts, where the hockey rink used to be. They will be permanent courts and scheduled start date is June 27. This will coincide with the opening of summer playgrounds so these participants can also make use of them. Playing times will be alternating to accommodate everyone.

Story Walk

Due to the rainy weather, we left the Story Walk up for a few more weeks. Feedback was favorable. A new story will be put up for summer.

Outdoor Movies

Lugias Ice Cream has now become a sponsor for both our Drive-In and Outdoor Amphitheater movie. Both movies are now 100 percent sponsored.

Center Stage

Center Stage runs from July 10-September 11. All the logistics are going as planned. Two golf carts have arrived with the rest expected the beginning of July. The storage unit and pipe/drape will arrive in mid-June. Please see enclosed information handouts.

Community Garden

Stacey and I met with members of the committee on Monday, May 23. The next step will be an informational meeting presented to the neighbors of Potter Park on Wednesday, June 8, beginning at 7 pm. Supervisor Smith and Mayor May will attend. An invitation has gone out to all homes in the Potter Park area to attend and get their feedback.

Perinton Derby

A new fitness program for Town of Perinton employees has begun. This fitness program has employees on teams and tracks fitness hours throughout the week. Teams came up with race horse names and their progress is posted on a race track in the employee lounge.

Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life held on Saturday, May 21, raised \$129,000. The venue had to be moved to the upper parking lots due to the wet grounds at Center Park. The committee was very well organized and 75 teams participated. Thanks to the Parks Department for all their help with set-up as well as Recreation staff. I participated in the event and was very pleased with how well the last minute venue turned out. Peppermill Road residents received fliers about the event change as well as surrounding neighbors. This was the third year for this event in our town.

Teen Center

Teen Spring Park Clean Up

On Sunday, May 1, 30 teens and 8 adults spent a couple of hours cleaning up Perinton Park for the warm weather season.

Mulching Volunteer Opportunity

On Saturday, May 7, 12 teens and one mom assisted the Parks Department with mulching the Town Hall and Community Center grounds.

Memorial Day Parade

To date we have 8 teens signed up to escort WWII veterans who will be riding in convertibles for the Memorial Day parade. Banners with the veteran's name and service information were made in the Detours after school program.

Senior Center

The Unity Health System Sleep Disorder Center event with Dr. Robert Israel was well attended. He is board certified in internal medicine and pulmonary diseases as well as sleep medicine. All in the audience walked away with ideas concerning the importance of sleep. Mitchell Rabbino National Health Decision Day was on Wednesday, May 18. Local lawyer Kristen Jonsson was the guest speaker. She discussed the 2011 checklist of health care proxies, wills, power of attorney, DNR, organ donations, probate and their differences. Day Tours has two trips planned to Auburn, New York and the Erie Canal. The movie matinee "Seabiscuit" was enjoyed by all. The biggest hit in May was the Mother's Day Tea and Fashion Show. Nine seniors modeled clothes from the Second Bloom consignment shop in Fairport. Finger sandwiches, scones, fruit, vegetables and tea cookies were served. (Photo enclosed).

Staff News

Chris Waldron is now a Member at Large on the Genesee Valley Recreation and Parks Society, Inc. Executive Board. His term is for one year. Jeff Nutting attended a full day seminar on Social Networking on May 24. The major topics discussed were facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn. Jeff found it very educational and said it provided even more tips to utilize facebook. We believe the information he received will be beneficial to our department in our quest to stay current with social media. To date, we now have 276 facebook followers.

Marketing Report

See enclosed.

INTERN KRASICKI REPORT

Ashley has spent time in several areas of the Recreation Department observing the tasks performed by staff as well as becoming familiar with the Rec Trac software program used. With various staff, she has been attending a variety of meetings where she is able to see the issues they deal with. She has been working on a power point presentation for the informational TV in the lobby area of the Rec Center. A program comparison for Perinton, Gates, Webster, Penfield and Pittsford is being compiled. By the end of her six week internship, she will have worked alongside all full time staff members in all areas of the Recreation and Parks Department.

AROUND THE TABLE

All present expressed their thanks that our area has not experienced the extreme weather conditions that many other states are dealing with. Wishes for a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend were exchanged.

Commissioner Myers again spoke of the great job Stacey and the parks staff has done under unusually inclement conditions. He also mentioned there were promising comments related to the Town Wide Master Plan draft that had been presented.

Jayne LaFay reminded everyone of the Volunteer Board dinner coming up on Thursday, June 2. Also mentioned was the need for Center Stage Volunteers and a reminder that the Unplugged Concert at the Amphitheater will take place on June 18.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm. The next Advisory Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 7:00pm in Room 211 at the Perinton Community Center.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie C. Kayser
Secretary