

Recreation Program Advisory Committee

March 24, 2009

Minutes

Members Present: Peggi Braden, Caryn Clothier, David Motley, Edna Nieves, and Mercedes Rivera

WPD Representatives: Greg Petry, Alicia Mentell, Jay Lerner, Mike Mayfield, and Scott Nadeau

Members Absent: Sara Griffin, Jerry Holisky, Carolyn Jackson, Janet Kilkelly, Martha Padilla-Ramos, Doris Richter, and Della Stelle

Welcome: Greg Petry called the meeting together at 7:10 p.m.

Introduction of Committee Members: Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Wise Kids Program: Mike Mayfield, Recreation Supervisor for Youth Programs and Services, gave an overview of the program including:

- Goal of the program: To combat childhood obesity
- Objective of the program: To inspire and motivate school-age children to achieve a healthy, balanced life through learning about and making wise nutrition and activity choices.

Scott Nadeau, Recreation Specialist for Youth and Teens, gave a brief overview of the nine week Wise Kids program that was incorporated in the 2008 summer camps. Copies of the curriculum were distributed.

- Camps that participated: Bowen Park Rangers, Bevier Park Explorers, and Special Recreation Camp.
- Total number of campers who participated: Over 200 combined.
- Program topics: Energy balance, the food pyramid, calories, food labels, the heart, the body, and keeping active.
- Program format: Each lesson followed the “Learn-Do-Play” format.
 - Learn: 15 minutes was devoted to learning about the wellness topic of the week.
 - Do: 15 minutes was devoted to children participating in three to five learning activities choices to help illustrate the concept covered.
 - Play: Goal was to have an activity or activities that would keep all the children active for thirty minutes.
- Program comments: The program was well received by the children, the children took what they learned and applied it to their families, and staff found it very easy to implement the program.

Mike Mayfield gave an overview of the Wise Kids Outdoor program that will be implemented at various 2009 summer camps. Participant handbooks, backpacks, and other supplies were circulated among the group:

- Objective of the program: To offer children an opportunity to explore the world of nature while teaching them about the importance of eating right and being physically active.
- Program Topics: Energy balance, the three R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), food & nature, water and weather, insects, birds, rocks, and living in nature.

General Comments from the Committee

- Wise Kids programs are very good and definitely address the need for education and awareness regarding childhood obesity in the community.

- Wise Kids programs should target the Hispanic community by having some things in Spanish.
- Wise Kids programs should be promoted at local churches for their use and information.
- Wise Kids programs should be offered to everyone and not limited to camp participants.
- Edna Nieves offered to translate program information, press releases, flyers, etc. to Spanish

American Independence Festivities: Alicia Mentell advised the committee members that the theme for this year's parade was "Progress in Motion". This ties the theme into the City of Waukegan's motto, "City of Progress, since this is the city's sesquicentennial anniversary. Grand Marshals will be the Waukegan High School Basketball team and coaches that placed second in its division at the State Championships.

Mayfield, Parade Coordinator, commented that special unit and general unit entry forms have been distributed to past participants. Special units still need to be confirmed. General entries will be accepted until sometime mid-June.

Jay Lerner, Festival Coordinator, noted that the festival will include food vendors, music, skate exhibition, bike decorating contest, children's games and activities, petting zoo, and pony rides.

Tournaments and Expos at The Field House: Lerner reviewed the listing of tournament/expo organizations and discussed various gym usages at The Field House Sports and Fitness Center. He noted that the wood floor and the six courts have made the difference in it being the facility of choice for many tournament directors. Lerner distributed a copy of the 2009 Tournament schedule.

He also highlighted groups that use the facility on a regular basis for games, tournaments, and/or practices. Groups he discussed in detail included Net Force Volleyball Club, United States Junior Nationals Basketball Tournaments, For the Game Basketball Tournaments, National Kidney Day Foundation Expo, Biblical Baptist Church Academy, St. Martin de Porres High School, and Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Community Sports Complex: Petry informed the committee that the project would be done in two phases. He stated that Robert Morris College could not commit to the project because of problems with funding. It needed to make a \$2 million down payment by March 9 and was unable to do so because there has been a delay in adopting the state budget. The economic climate has allowed the park district to take advantage of good bids for this construction season. The project will be completed in two phases.

When Phase I is done the grass should be seeded by September 15. By July 15, 2010 everything for the project should be completed. This time next year there should only be cleanup stuff do such as fencing. Alicia Mentell, Mike Trigg, and Jay Lerner will be developing a Pro Forma Budget. Petry noted that there is huge revenue potential from rentals and parking.

Caryn Clothier asked how the park district plans to control play for the soccer fields. Petry said that there would be two gated entrances at the artificial turf field and grass fields would be rotated for play. He also stated that procedures would be developed for control and oversight as well as general rules. Petry said that more Astroturf might have to be put in later due to high usage and allow for a longer season. Goals would be portable. He stated that there will be only be a small irrigation pond so as not to attract birds. This was a concern of the Waukegan Airport.

Edna Nieves asked that Petry let her know who the contractors are so that she can get them registered with the City of Waukegan as well.

Priorities for Next Meeting: Everyone agreed that the main priority for the next meeting would be the Community Sports Complex.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.