

RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2015
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES: **Dave Gonyea, Ravi Sharma, Tizz Crowley, Phil Savignano, Dana Staples, Dan Poisson, Dave Sterling and Howard Kroll.**
ABSENT: **Sue Patneau and Eric Audette**

- I. Review and Approve Minutes – Approved as presented.
- II. Committee Updates – No Seniors Update
- III. Ingersoll Update
 - A. Ravi Reported that, based on the Fire Marshall’s review of the proposed layout of the facility, the construction permit has been issued.
 - B. Project Bid: The bids came back on January 8th. Three companies bid on the project: DeMatteo Construction \$655,000, Sheridan Corporation \$633,899.00 and Doten Construction \$519,572.63. Staff is continuing to work on a business plan and should be done in the next couple of weeks. It will then be brought back to the committee for review and comment.

Ravi was asked to get the bid breakdown to the committee. All the numbers came in where expected for the whole project. The council has approved \$249,000.00 for the first phase of the project. The plan is to have the construction done in time for the fall season, beginning in September/October.

Recommendations to the council need to be specific with regard to separating the project into two phases and how that impacts the cost. Unused CIP money is available to be allocated to this project. If the committee believes that the project should be done as a whole, perhaps the unallocated bond funds could be invested toward the project.

There is already an \$85,000.00 bond on the Ingersoll Arena. If the debt could be restructured so that it could be drawn out over a longer period of time, it would make breaking even more possible. If this debt service can be isolated and not included as part of the new endeavor, it would not impact the new project. If we do nothing in the building, we will still have debt of \$500,000.00, or \$100,000.00 per year over the next 5 years. It would be better to do something with the building to generate revenue.

There was a question as to whether the money resulting from the sale of the chillers went into the Ingersoll account. No answer was readily available.

Dave Gonyea suggested that a 5-year plan be established.

Start-up netting and equipment will be purchased initially and be added as a line item for replacement in the future. A netting system was also specified in the bid for batting cages.

IV. Programming Update

- A. Adult dodgeball has been advertised. Practices are held the first week. Games to follow and a tournament at the end of the season. Last year, we had 11 teams. We have a capacity for 12 teams this year.
- B. Youth Indoor Soccer program just started. Basics of soccer are taught by the Portland Phoenix, Maine Premier Soccer. There are games and small-sided play with emphasis on sportsmanship and team play. This program is for children ages 4 – 7.
- C. Basketball is ongoing. Pre-K/K program is over. We had 57 children enrolled. More and more kids are participating year after year. It is instructional in nature. Basketball for grades 1 through 12 is going very well. Practices and games are listed on our website.
- D. Adult Basketball is about half over
- E. Adult Pickleball – We are in week 15. The program is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Pickleball is a combination of table tennis and badminton. Since the beginning, we've had about 270 participants. We do everything for this program. It is a drop-in program. We have extra equipment for those who want to try the game and don't have equipment yet. We would like to expand the program into the evening in the spring after basketball is over.
- F. Youth Open Gym – A free after school program Mondays through Fridays from 2:30 to 4:15 p.m., for high school students and under. Younger children need to have a parent with them.
- G. Winter Festival – We are at the end of the planning stage. It is listed on our website under the special events tab. The brochure is done with a listing of all events and sponsors. It includes directions to event locations. Winter Festival will take place from February 6th to February 8th. Department staff will be delivering brochures to many businesses throughout the city. There is a Facebook page dedicated to Winter Festival. It is also on the Lost Valley web page. Another press release will be done to advertise the event. Tizz stressed sending an article every week regarding what the department is doing, with photos, to promote the department. The deadline is 12:00 Noon on Fridays. Have Winter Festival advertise on their marquee signs at the library and Gee & Bee. There are others throughout the city. There will also be information in the L/A Alerts site. The Sun-Journal will run some advertising for us as well, as part of their sponsorship.
- H. FY 2016 budget preparation continued.
- I. Planning for spring programs has also begun.
- J. We are offering Red Claws tickets for the February 28th game against Sioux City at the Portland Expo. Cost is \$6.00 Seats are located in a good section of the Expo. Ravi got a quote of \$400.00 and \$750.00 for a bus. That would add between \$8.00 and \$16.00 a seat for a 48 passenger bus. A school bus would be about \$400.00.
- K. We are also selling discounted Lost Valley tickets and Portland Dine Around Memberships for \$25.00 each.

V. New Business

- A. FY 2016 Budget – What does the committee need to do to support the department's requests – such as Silver Sneakers, Zumba, meditation, line dancing, movies at the library, and Dinny Sullivan Hat's Off to Neighborhood Businesses celebration on March 14th. Tizz suggested having a Pickleball demonstration on that day.

Discussion ensued about getting a license to show movies in the new field house. It was determined that it would be cost prohibitive to do so.

- B. Bike Update – Phil Savignano: Because the YMCA is not going to build a brand New YMCA on Stetson Road, they will be collaborating with John F. Murphy Homes and doing something together at Mill 5. The land still belongs to the Y and is still available for use. John Grenier from Rainbow is planning to develop some easy mountain bike trails for urban use, an Urban Mountain Bike Park, accessible for kids to just go and ride on the trails. He urged the department to get involved if there was an opportunity. The department could get involved by being a drop-off location for mountain bike donations for the park, and stockpiling them. The city may also be able to get involved with the trail mapping. It was suggested that the department start a mountain biking program for children.
 - C. Lewiston now has a limit on how many special events they will allow per year. The number they came up with is 17.
- VI. Open – None
 - VII. Next Meeting: February 11, 2015
 - VIII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Biron
Administrative Assistant