

Recreation Advisory Meeting
November 13, 2008
6:00 p.m.
North Little Rock Community Center

RAC Members Present: Sherri Pettit, Sylvia Jones, Terry Larry, Rhonda Hines, Charles Jones, Otistene Smith, Bernadette Sheppard and Margo Tenner.

Excused Absent Members: Trinity Johnson, Artist Boykin and Cedric Black.

Unexcused Absent Members: Justin Lindsey and James Lawson.

Staff Present: Tina Worrell, Janie Horn, Jeff Caplinger, Blenda Wilson, Renee Henson, Glenda Parker, Tony Pate

Charles welcomed everyone

Janie called Roll

Tina told committee members that staff reports are in their packages. Otistene asked about the positions for next year which have been approved. Tina said there has been a change in the budget. There will not be any full time positions. She wanted the Facility Leaders to be put on as full time, but that will not happen next year. She said the only full time position will be the baseball position which is funded by the Baseball Association and that the budget has gotten tight.

Otistene asked about maintenance at centers. Tina said they have a new work-order form and that work-orders will be completed within the month unless an emergency. The worker that does the work-order has to get it inspected by a center employee and sign off on it.

Otistene asked about the roofs. Renee said Sherman Park roof is completed and that she now has an ADA Handicap Parking lot. Tina said Glenview's roof should be started November 24. She said it is taking about four months for completion. NLR Community Center's roof over the walkway was mostly completed on Wednesday, November 12. There are still leaks at the spouts.

Splash Pad at Glenview is going back to being a pool. Otistene asked what kind of pool are we going to get. Tina said bids will go out and they will put down the correct soil with cement on top and put new equipment.

Charles asked who is going to do the work and who finds them. We have to keep repairing pools. Tina said it is like the roofs that before she started working we had roofs repaired and the roofers went out of business. Charles said he thinks it should be the city or Bob Rhoads place to get the bids. Tina said we are asking for bonded people and that we take three bids for the work and they are sealed bids. Charles said he thinks the

company that gets the bid should go to the center and talk to the directors and let them know what they are doing. Directors said they do. Otistene said we are just worried about repeating our money when we can use it somewhere else. Tina said the roofers assured the roofs would last thirty years and that they are metals roofs except at NLR Community Center.

Charles questioned the membership totals at North Heights. He asked on a daily basis how many. Glenda said around two hundred and when school next door is there another two hundred. Renee said at Sherman Park around ninety kids not including adults. Katrina said at Glenview two hundred plus. Charles asked how many kids a day are on the Soccer Fields. Tina said she would look into it from the tournament. Peak time at centers is 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. Otistene asked about staff. Katrina said we just have part time staff.

The NLR Community Center only has adults. Blenda said it depends on rentals that the Large Meeting Room rents almost daily. She also said right now we don't have that many using the Fitness Facility and that we are going to run an ad in the Arkansas-Democrat Gazette. Blenda said it is hard competing against other Fitness Facilities. Tina told Charles the difference is the different charges for 10 Fitness and the Senior Center. Blenda said the difference between us and the Senior Center is we have a sauna. Sherri said there are two ladies in her fitness class that will not go to the Senior Center because it is so crowded.

Charles asked about Foundation. Otistene said we are having problems with funding. She said some people have been contacted. Bernadette said she has left messages with Tracy Steele to see if he will give us some money.

Katrina said Hays Miller is willing to hold a class on Grant Writing at no charge for him, but \$25.00 for the class at the Glenview Community Center, December 15. We will furnish lunch catered by Jason's deli and this will come out of the money we get for the class. The rest of the money will be donated to the foundation. Katrina said it is open to the public for fifteen to twenty people. Tina said the city will pay for our employees to go.

Tony said they put a package out for NLRCC Representative, but no response yet.

Otistene about funds for AED's at centers. Tina said nothing yet, but the Health Department is going to help look at getting a grant.

Tina went over budget for 2009. She said the Hamburger Tax is usually at 3%, but it is at .8% now. Mr. Rhoads asked us to cut our budget back 3%. Tina said she hopes the new roofs help with energy. She said the centers are cutting back on electricity and anything else we can cut back to save. Tina said she told directors that patrons that come to their centers to promote to them to eat out in North Little Rock. Charles said to call the school districts and advertise in newsletters to eat in our restaurants that help NLR Parks & Recreation. Renee said she runs into people talking about all the work that is being done

in Parks & Recreation. She said she told them to keep eating in North Little Rock that it helps. Charles said when they do work, they know it is a progress. Tina asked Margo about her business. Is it steady? Margo said yes.

Tina said we have open play from when the centers open in the mornings and classes for all age groups. Tina told the committee she wants their input for a policy on kids staying at centers until they are picked up. She said some are there late and employees have to stay until parent gets there. Charles said it is the trust parents have in the center and staff.

Tina told committee to please encourage Parks and Recreation Commission to keep Recreation fresh on their minds with our needs. Charles said call your Alderman for help because budget is tight. Tina said we are doing everything we can to cut back. Charles said there is no comparison on what we pay for utilities and what the ball fields pay.

The North Little Rock Wildcats Concession was discussed. Margo expressed concerns over where the concession funds were going and suggested that Parks and Recreation run the concessions. Tina said that the concession is under the NLR Youth Wildcats Football Teams' association's direction. The association decides who operates concessions at their games and what happens with the money. The association is treated the same as all ball associations with Parks and Recreation. The association will have to present their Annual Report after the first of the year to the Commission.

Jeff shared with committee his evaluation that he mailed out to parents and children. Overall, the youth and the parents were quite pleased with SAPling and plan to continue their participation and tell others as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janie Horn