

City of Wyoming Parks & Recreation Commission

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF November 18, 2015 @ Wyoming Senior Center

Present: Douglas Broek, Robert Cook, Megan Harley, Ken Hornecker, Oogie LaMar, Ed McGregor, Dave Skinner, Doug Wustman,

Absent: Aaron Velthouse, Rich Pastoor (City Council Liaison)
Rebecca Rynbrandt, Director of Community Services

Guest:

Staff Present: Eric Tomkins, Recreation Supervisor
Molly Remenap, WSC Programmer
Nicole Batcke, Secretary

- A. Call to order of the Parks and Recreation Commission** – Commission Chair, Doug Wustman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda** – A motion was made to approve the agenda by Ed McGregor and seconded by Doug Broek. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of the Parks and Recreation from Oct. 14, 2015 Meeting** – Ken Hornecker made motion to approve the minutes from the Oct. 14, 2015 meeting and was seconded by David Skinner. Motion carried.
- D. Public Comment on Agenda Item (limit to 3 minutes)** – None
- E. Wyoming Senior Center Presentation (Molly Remenap)** Doug Wustman turned over the meeting to Molly Remenap. Remenap opened up her power point presentation by providing a brief history of the WSC, along with information on renovations that have taken place since they had been in the building. She informed the commission on various items, including programs, classes and services that are offered at the WSC. Remenap provided a little background as to why the renovations took place to bring up to date not only the center and its look, but to incorporate the technology that would benefit the participants and community.

Remenap provided general information on the Fellowship Club and other areas of interest. Remenap also provided information on the travel program that has actually increased in popularity from the community and participants. They have added multiple trips, nothing overnight, just day trips. Most of the trips are done with Wyoming Public Schools transportation (i.e. use of a school bus), because of the partnership with the schools; they have been really great in providing the buses for us. Remenap went over the commercial bingo program and the income that has been raised.

Remenap also briefly touched on some of the special events that the WSC has to offer. Some of these events are: Christmas in July, Pancake Breakfasts, Thanksgiving Dinner, and the largest event; the Summer Picnic. Remenap also provided information on some of the partnerships that the WSC has with outside organizations and non-profits.

Wustman asked what an average attendance for the commercial bingo is. Remenap said the biggest crowd they have had is about 140. Wustman also asked about the social (grocery) bingo that he has heard McGregor speak of. McGregor explained that bingo program a little, by saying the cards they play with for the social (grocery) bingo are slider cards and they play for grocery items. Remenap wanted the commission to know that the WSC isn't just bingo, however, bingo does play a basic part of the WSC to bring some people in, but they are looking into expanding programs so the more active seniors will want to spend time at the WSC. The average age for a participant is 76, depending on the program you look at. Eric Tomkins added that they have seen the description of a "senior" change as the years go by and what used to be the typical stereotype of a "senior" is no longer the case. More older adults, that are retired, now stay more active and are working or volunteering within their community.

Wustman inquired as to what type of marketing tools the WSC uses to promote their programs and building. Tomkins informed the commission that the WSC has a Facebook page, the Active Living Newsletter, and clothing and promotional items with the WSC "mark" on it. In addition to those items, there is a Parks & Recreation Instagram page, the Constant Contact Newsletter, and the Seasonal Recreational Brochure. Wustman asked if we had any charts that showed the diversity of attendance at the WSC. Remenap said that diversity isn't something they keep track of, but they are continuing to discuss how to become a more diverse community staple. Tomkins remarked that they are expanding the partnership with Godfrey Lee Schools, as not only is the WSC located within that school district, but also because of the diverse population of the school district. Wustman also inquired about collaborations with area churches, because they tend to connect with diverse groups or have connections with different areas that maybe the WSC doesn't touch base with. Remenap said they have some events in connection with area churches; however, the WSC has to be careful with the religious partnerships because of the fact that they are tied to the city.

Oogie LaMar mentioned that he had has some conversations with several of his adult students regarding prescriptions and health related items pertaining to affordability. LaMar said that he learned the place a lot of retired adults, with fixed or lower incomes, will go through Cherry Health Services. Remenap said that they have offered some programs in partnership with Cherry Health Services along with other outside organizations that show the participants that there are other resources out there in the community to assist them with life decisions and issues. Remenap told the Commission that attention to trends and on-going discussions continue influence the types of programs and services that will be offered at the WSC in the future.

Tomkins commented that one of the most rewarding things that he has been able to witness is the transition of the WSC over the years. Staffing changes, in addition to trend changes, have allowed the staff to grow and develop with all of the different skill sets that are now in place at the WSC. There is a great team there and Tomkins looks forward to seeing the WSC evolve even more through the years. Tomkins said that he always reminds the committees at the WSC that when they are making decisions for programs and events, they need to take into consideration the "legacy" that they will leave and not make the decision for the moment.

- **Scholarship Program Success** – Remenap presented a graph showing how much their scholarships have fluctuated in the past 8 by years. After research into why the use was so high in previous years, the conclusion became obvious that most of the scholarships were being used for the ceramics program that was offered. So for FY 14, they implemented stipulations to the scholarship program which included 4 different levels of benefit; 25%, 50%, 75% or 100%. All of these options were based on the participants need and income.

- F. **Recreation Services Update (Eric Tomkins)** –Tomkins touched on a couple of items on the Recreation side of the scope. The Annual Pumpkin Path was a success again with over 6,000 people attending. Tomkins provided a brief summary of that special event, which is our largest event of the department. Tomkins said that the Pumpkin Path used the #PumpkinPath this year which allowed people to share their own personal photos with us of the event. Youth football was completely run through our department with Kenny Westrate, Programmer. There is still has an advisory board connected to Wyoming Youth Football, which is still consulted and provides input; however, any programming decisions are now made through the Parks and Recreation Department. Overall the transition went very well. Scott Berg, a member of the Wyoming High School Sports Boosters Club, did a great job with working with us on marketing the Parks and Recreation Department in sports programs that are handed out at events and we also had a banner on display at the Wyoming High School football field during their season. Tomkins mentioned the TEAM 21 program just briefly. He said that this is the second year we have had the 15 sites and it is going much smoother than the first year, which we knew would be a learning curve. Tomkins had a short power point presentation with a slide that provided information on the diversity and the overall attendance of the TEAM 21 program, which totaled 778 average daily participants in September for all of the sites. There was also a breakdown of the ethnicity of the program. This information was provided by the applications completed by the participants enrolling in the program. Hornecker noticed that the percentages totaled slightly more than 100% and Tomkins said the reason for that is due to the fact that Hispanic/Latino is an ethnicity and not a race in respect to the collection of that data. This does lead to some confusion for people completing this information as to whether they are White, Mixed Race, or Some Other Race (with relationship to race) while their ethnicity is Hispanic/Latino. Overall, Hispanic/Latino participation is now averaging 52% overall for TEAM 21. Tomkins mentioned that he does have additional handouts on TEAM 21 if anyone would like them.
- **Including Scholarship Program Success** – Tomkins presented information on the scholarship program that is offered for recreational programs, because of the reimbursement from the Greater Wyoming Community Resource Alliance. Tomkins distributed a hand out that provided comparison information on the scholarships for FY 15 and FY 16 to complement the Power Point data slide. There was a spike in scholarships being used in FY 15. This was due, in large part, to the fact that youth football was eligible for the first time for scholarship support and an increase in youth soccer scholarships. In addition, youth swimming was also a popular class that was used for scholarship enrollment, and has a higher registration fee. Tomkins said that the swimming is offered as a partnership with the KROC Center. The Alliance reimburses us for the amount that is spent on the scholarships and they increased it for the demand and need in FY 15 to \$5,000.00 annually. The scholarship program has been very successful for our department and also exposes participants to other programs offered.
- G. **Commissioner Concerns and Suggestions**- Hornecker asked if there were any additional updates on PPLL. Tomkins said that he believes Becky will be giving them a more detailed update at the December meeting. Tomkins said that while he does not have a detailed report at this time, things are moving along with the recently elected Pinery Park Little League board, the Mayor facilitating meetings and being a conduit for necessary information, and the City Manager involvement, as well. As a result of the recent City-PPLL agreement, the PPLL Board has also had financial meetings with the City as the Alliance is now the fiduciary of the PPLL. Eric mentioned that the Mayor and City staff continue to address the rumor that the City was completely taking over the program, reassuring the community that there is still a PPLL board, that the City is helping the PPLL to re-gain its non-profit status, as well as assist the financial operations so that the program will be well operated and transparent. There was a meeting for the general public held last week Thursday, November 12 which was facilitated by the Mayor to re-affirm the direction of the PPLL and the City's involvement. LaMar questioned whether the

process has been going well to date, and also asked if the opinion was the movement was going in the right direction. LaMar also stated that this is the area that the Commission wanted to be at a year ago, but that he is pleased the Mayor has gotten involved and that the City is doing its best for the league and its participants. LaMar said that he trusts Becky Rynbrandt's leadership and that he is much more satisfied with where we are with PPLL now, than we were 5 months ago. Tomkins said the process is underway and that there are benchmarks in the process that need to be hit and that time will tell if the process works out. The overall goal continues to be providing a little league baseball and softball program for the kids of our community. LaMar reiterated that he is happy that the integrity of the league is being restored.

LaMar brought up that he would like an update Disaster Resiliency Grant Projects for Ideal & Jackson Parks at the December meeting, if possible.

Tomkins pointed out to the Commission that there was a recent School News Network article that highlighted LaMar bringing a group of adults to the capital to speak with some legislators on the importance of adult education in the community. LaMar spent a few minutes elaborating on that trip to the commission.

Tomkins also mentioned that the Schools News Network (an e-mail newsletter) is a great resource which provides positive news and information on education-related items.

Wustman quickly mentioned to the Commission that he would like them to try to respond to Nikki Batcke to let her know whether they would be in attendance at meetings as quickly as they are able to. That way Batcke doesn't have to track any of us down to find out.

- **FY 2017 Budget Preparation-** Wustman briefly mentioned again that if the commission had any suggestions for budget, to contact Rynbrandt.
- **Recruitment of New Members** – Wustman also mentioned that there are openings on the commission, so if any current member knew of anyone, please refer them to Rynbrandt.

H. **Public Comment in General (Limit to 3 minutes) - None**

I. **Motion to Adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting** – LaMar made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Megan Harley seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission: December 9, 2015

Recorded by 
Nicole M. Batcke
Recording Secretary