



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 27, 2017

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Headquarters

Meeting Notes

Committee members present: Arlene Zamora – Chair, Lynne Crockett, Al Jueneman, Brian Nalezny, John Lilly, Emmanuel Ortiz, Katrina Nygaard, David Kaplan, Hershel Ousley, Larry McKenzie, Bob Fine, Kathy Engen,

Committee members excused: Ali Warsame, Jovita Morales, Ahmed Ismail, Adelheid Koski, Beth Hart, Delano Lee, Ede Holmen

Guests: Jake Virden, Jack Tamble

MPRB Commissioners present: Meg Forney

Staff/consultants present: Larry Umphrey, Tim Grate, Tyrize Cox, Christy Tuuri

Although portions of these notes may appear to be in the first person, they are not direct quotes of staff, consultants, CAC members, Commissioners, or the public. These notes are intended to paraphrase or summarize the key points of the discussion.

1. Welcome (*Tyrize Cox, MPRB*) 6:10
 - Round of introductions of CAC members, appointments, MPRB staff
 - Address homework from last meeting for review
 - o Return physically tonight or electronically
 - o Wanted to hear how gyms and fields are managed/budgeted – Tim here to present

2. MPRB Athletic Facility Permitting and Use (*Tim Grate, MPRB*) 6:13
 - The presentation slide was Recreation Facility Permitting and Use
 - o Slide One – MPRB Programming Goals
 - o Athletic Fields – (Slide 2)
 - Three groups – MPRB Programs, Contracted, Programming Partners
 - o MPRB Programs: Youthline, Teen Teamworks, Athletics, Recreation Plus, Nite Owlz
 - o Ariel View of Armatage Fields (Slide 3)
 - o Multiple use fields
 - Arlene: are fields used due to interest of certain sports? For instance, higher interest in certain sport warrants more use?
 - Tim: Not really, we don't have the field space to accommodate each request/interest.

RecQuest, led by the MPRB, is a comprehensive planning, design, community engagement, and recreation program evaluation and needs assessment for Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board recreation centers. The plan developed from the assessment will serve the next 25-30 years of capital improvements for recreation centers, and is an opportunity to tailor recreation center facilities and programs to meet the current and projected needs of communities across the city.

- Arlene: Can they be rented out?
 - Tim: Yes and No
 - Crockett: Explain what ‘out of use means’?
 - Tim: ‘Out of Use’ demonstration on how different athletic fields overlap each other. Danger of kids getting hurt, running into one another.
 - Fine: When we designed them, we were avoiding overuse – thought was it was good to create multiuse areas (avoids destroying fields and grass).
 - Tim: We have even rotated play to accommodate things like ‘wet springs’ and irrigation problems. Close certain areas and reintroduce them.
- Athletic Field Permit Priority Schedule (Slide 4)
 - Explain application process for 2017
 - Tim explains blocking off field space for MPRB recreation, then block for MPS competitive seasons, and then returning renters have time blocked, and then give to new individuals/groups/organizations.
 - Open to new ideas – but have found it is the most fair for allocation
 - Brian: How much space is available to new users?
 - Tim: A lot, groups and popular time slots change. Maybe only 10% of applications are turned away. Try to give other options to accommodate needs.
 - Brian: Some spaces fill up more than others?
 - Tim: A lot with revenue generating sites (Neimen, Parade) and less with neighborhood parks. Always try to leave time to the general public. Not everything is revenue making and there should be community time. But we run into times that everyone wants. Always time at a park that people can gather to play.
 - Katrina: How do you prioritize as applications come in, what if you miss the timeline to submit an application?
 - Tim: It is dependent on how you come in order of applications received. If you miss the date, you are at the bottom (even returning groups). Biggest issue is that people just don’t know. (example: currently translating application to Spanish and communication of deadlines)
 - Ortiz: Are returning permit holders/a lot of private leagues booking from April to October (big blocks of time)?
 - Tim: Yes - like Minneapolis Youth United
 - Ortiz: Is that available to us (the community)? The scheduling factoring in to the community? For example - East Philips Park – can we get that information to see what the use was for 2016? Prime times are the biggest issue. Open times are usually during the day. Leagues occupy on weekends from sun up to down.
 - Tim: Not leagues always, but groups.
 - Ortiz: When does weekend pick-up play happen?
 - Tim: Weekdays are open Monday through Friday, not permit but leave one field open to public. Assumption arises that field use

is rented, but may be pick-up. We need to do better to let users know it is a pick-up game.

- Arlene: How do you communicate to groups in Minneapolis (priorities explained for permitting) for free play?
 - Cox: We have not found an easy and consistent way to communicate when field time is open. This is something we are hoping to find at these meetings.
- Arlene: You said you do leave room for community programs – example daycare – are you saying community at Minneapolis is through schools?
 - Cox – Yes, a group would be in category number 4 (on slide).
- Al: Can we assign a percentage to each of the priorities?
 - Tim: That would be hard to apply to the entire system.
- Ortiz: If I applied on 7/4/16 as a group, I would be #4 – can we do this again next year? Then become #3? (answer is yes)
- John: #2 is only where we share facilities? Why?
 - Tim: Yes, because an agreement is in place.
 - Cox: Individually, we don't have enough space alone, but together we can share and accommodate.
- John: That is the point – I just want to clarify that the #2 is the only spot we are sharing.
- Larry: What if I want to put together a baseball team in April, how would I know I need to apply in February?
 - Tim – It is on the website; I don't know the best way of getting that out. People call mostly and ask questions and are late, so it is the following year. How do you know who wants to use it? How do you reach them? Through schools, neighborhoods?
- Bob: Larry has a great question: the reason you do permits in Feb is because a lot of teams start in the spring. Problem arises with soccer (6 months out permits).
 - Tim- A lot of groups don't know. Having the February date is more fair than same day expiration application.
- Crockett: Put a sign on the door?
 - Tim: This is just for fields, outside.
- Kathy: How much of this is communicated to the individual centers? Posting is a great idea. Park staff are not always helpful with complete information. Please educate the people at the parks. Posting a schedule of who has the fields would be a lot of clarity.
- Hershel: Can we piggy back with MPS - 311 as an information source?
 - Tim: I don't know, but that is a great idea.
- Fine: I always thought 1 and 2 should come together. We don't have enough gyms and the schools do, we have the fields. I think 1 and 2 should be better merged.
- Arlene: I wanted to say the same as Kathy, educating and creating communication policy. What about #4 – are there grants available and what is the procedure?
 - Tim: Only the Board can negotiate fees – my recommendation is to contact your Commissioner as I can't personally wave your fees.
 - Cox: We meet with Community Ed regularly – and try to identify the needs for space.
- Kathy: How much is a permit?

- Tim: That depends on the group and field – the fee schedule is in our application.
- Ortiz: I think it is important to communicate at the park site – it is the first point of contact. Sometimes calls would not be returned from the parks site. There was no way of knowing when league play starts. When we would push back - we found we could not rent fields at any point of summer on weekends – they were totally booked. You would have more interest in a field if you tallied all who are interested. I would oppose year round registration, that would favor larger leagues, and would not remedy field use times. Can I go to the website and get triggered for email notifications of registration?
 - Tim: I believe ‘Gov Delivery’ does that.
- David: Would more fields solve this problem? Better configuration possible to create more usable fields? Twice yearly applications?
 - Tim: We are doing that right now - looking at our system – and trying to figure out what makes sense. The current diagram does not make a lot of sense. I don’t know if we will ever have enough fields. We need to be smarter with allocation. Most soccer groups want to play all the way through – in my experience – and would force them to break up how things are done (maybe that is good). Soccer groups in permitting want to go spring through fall. Would force them to rent differently.
 - Cox: Most is possible, it depends on whether we can fund it.
- Ortiz: Is there opportunity in the Master Plan? Part of the frustration is what fields can be built and how they are used – for example Powderhorn wants a field but not booked out all weekend. It is hard to book something in December and not find out until July if it was allocated to you.
- Three Field Survey (Slide 5)
 - Cox: What fields are being used? Premier fields? Asked Tim to do an assessment for the previous fall:
 - Found a different picture than what we thought. Many permits are outside the city. Elliot too new to gather data.
 - Considerable pick up time but not the most desirable.
 - Tim tries to leave space for neighbors – but not the most desirable to families.
 - We learned we need to communicate differently.
 - May not be league play always.
 - Our staff are not knowledgeable at the centers – may not know who people on fields are. This creates frustration. Workers are too distant from the process.
 - We are working to improve what they know and how they communicate.
 - Crockett: How far in advance do staff get a free time reserved?
 - Tim: Depends on site and on field maintenance - may not have particular staff at that location.
 - Cox: We have a low tech solution – waiting to present to Commissioners. We are making steps.

or movies. We don't charge for these events so it is lost. Neighborhood organizations can pay the hard cost for the movie in the park.

- c. Arlene – Is the \$9 million for rec enters?
 - i. Larry- Yes not all maintenance comes from general fund. Take in some revenue. We take in around 2 million.
 - 1. Gives other example of general fund (all but golf, parking, restaurant, etc.)

vi. Operation Costs (slide 6)

- 1. Mileage, etc.
 - a. Arlene: When is budget released?
 - i. Larry – When it is final and approved by Board (December).

vii. Q & A (slide 7)

- 1. Crockett: What are uniforms in budget? How do we get good hoodies to market our parks? Do the parks have the budget for this?
 - a. Larry – The individual park can do it, but need to properly allocate tax dollars.
- 2. Arlene: Uniforms – is that like Park Board shirts?
 - a. Larry – Yes, personal appearance policy.
- 3. Arlene: Can we see a detailed budget of what money comes in and what goes out?
 - a. Larry – Yes, I have a spreadsheet with that for each site. It's a lot of paper but we can talk and see what you are specifically looking for.

4. *Public Comment - facilitated by Arlene Zamora, CAC chair* 7:37

viii. *No Comment*

5. Closing Remarks (*Tyrize Cox, MPRB*) 7:37

- b. We are ahead of schedule
- c. Hearing great recommendations arise (have great ideas for us)
- d. Tobacco Policy passed two months ago
 - i. All facilities tobacco free as of May 8, 2017
 - 1. Year one, policy not an ordinance.
 - ii. Make sure CAC is aware and acting as ambassadors, provide reminders
 - 1. New signs have been delivered (not multilingual but international signs)
 - 2. Starting trainings for native American ceremonies (permit process)
- e. John: include MOU on next agenda
 - i. Cox: Yes, we will include. Next month is equity matrix. Will include on next agenda.
 - ii. Discussion on shared programming
 - iii. Consider use of facilities and income – make parks usable
 - 1. New fields vs. new parks – is that needed
 - iv. Ortiz: How do take our opinions for the North Plan - Southside plans are set
 - 1. Cox: we will look into what flexibility is in the South Plan
 - 2. Ortiz: Example of Powderhorn – were courts were taken out have become soccer fields. Opposition to putting a field in. Problem: if it is built and it is rented out nonstop on weekends- not a win for community needs. How facilities are built and how they are used. Same issue with North Area Master Plan.

- a. Cox: Ask these questions when planning department representative comes next month – how much flexibility.

7. Adjourn (approximately 7:44pm)

This constitutes the author's understanding of items discussed and decisions reached. If there are any omissions or discrepancies, please notify Jamie Neldner in writing.