Rochester Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2014

Present: Karen Stokes, Lauren Colanto, Art Jacobs, Pete Lachapelle, Jeff Turgeon, Regan Dowe, Tamara Hewitt, Paul Roberts

1. Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted.
2. **Financials** were presented. It was noted that many of the line item totals were near 100% for the fiscal year. Lauren noted that part time staffing would be an area to watch. Art mentioned that Chris has always done an excellent job of utilizing funds and appropriating them correctly. It was mentioned that the Recreation Department would be presenting the proposed 2014/2015 budget to City Council on May 20th.
3. **Program Updates**
* Summer Camp and Swim Lesson registration began on April 1st and can be found on the website.
* There was a lengthy discussion about “Neighborhood Camp”. Lauren and Art explained that the camp takes place at William Allen School for ages 6-13. The camp is designed for children with a financial assistance need and Lauren works in conjunction with elementary guidance counselors to identify students that meet this criteria.
* 18 people have signed up for April Vacation camp thus far.
* Joy of Painting (Ages 50+) and Senior Power Hour have exceeded projected participation levels.
* Positive feedback was shared about the Youth Lacrosse Program.
* Teen Night – Lauren shared that numbers have been extremely high (360 last month) for these monthly events. She is considering adding 3 or 4 more paid staff at the next event.
1. **Skate Park / Community Development Grant** – Art talked about the yearly walk through inspection that takes place with HealthTrust. The inspection revealed that the skate park (donated in 2008) was in serious disrepair and the liability that comes with it. Art shared the history of the skate park and some pictures of its current state.

Art also shared that some funds have come available from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Originally thought to be $15K, it has now risen to $43K. There was discussion about what to do with the skate park and the members agreed that the skate park should be removed because of its poor condition.

Art then shared a proposal entitled the **Hanson Pines Improvement Project**. The rationale behind the project is that it would serve a greater number of community members instead of the small number of people who utilize the skate park. The members all agreed that we would support the proposal. The Recreation Department (Art) will most likely bring the proposal to the City Council in May.

1. **Design Brief Survey** – Lauren will be meeting with Nikol from Ace Your Image soon to share feedback from stakeholders. Lauren handed out a survey for members to complete. She mentioned that another survey would be available to other community members.