

GERMANTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2010

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Germantown Parks and Recreation Commission for February 25, 2010 was held at Parks and Recreation, 2276 West Street.

PRESENT:

Kevin Young
Jerry Gee
Mary Anne Gibson
Bob Timm
Rodney Strop
Jim Wilson
Mark Billingsley, Alderman
Pam Beasley, Director of Parks and Recreation
Rick Bennett, Planning Commission Liaison

ABSENT:

Angela Sorensen
William Kenley

Guests:

Scott Rosenberger, GBL
Bob Bean, GBL
Eddie Klank, GBL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Mrs. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve the February 25, 2010 agenda as amended.

Young – yes; Gee – yes; Gibson – yes; Timm – yes; Strop – yes; Wilson – yes; Billingsley – yes.
Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2010

It was moved by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Strop to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2010 meeting as submitted.

Young – yes; Gee – yes; Gibson – yes; Timm – yes; Strop – yes; Wilson – yes; Billingsley – yes.
Motion approved.

YOUTH BASEBALL REPORT

Mr. Rosenberger reported that things are going well. To date, there are 750 registered players. Evaluations took place last Saturday and on Tuesday night, 200 coaches will participate in the draft so between now and Saturday morning, 65 statistically balanced teams will be established. Coaching guidelines, background checks, photos, Umpire safety clinics, equipment check off, and then they will have a short amount of time to make trades.

Approximately 700 practice events are scheduled over the next three weeks, which is a big challenge but the biggest challenge is getting people ready to facilitate a high quality service. New people are being trained on an ongoing basis. Purchasing scheduling software would cut down a lot of the manual work but that's not possible right now.

Ms. Beasley stated that staff pulled the registration history for the past three years and expected that there might be a drop in registration due to the transition. However, last year the top figure for recreation baseball was 768 registered players and staff is now confident that the GBL will surpass that, which means that the recreation program has continued to grow even with the change of administration. Ms. Beasley credits the GBL for their ability to organize, lead, and market the program to the community for the success of the program. They have been very forthcoming with staff and have developed a great working relationship.

ADOPTION OF THE 2010 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Ms. Beasley stated that at the January meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission provided staff with what they thought were viable projects that they wanted to see take place in 2010. Taking the eight Business Strategies, Commission members were asked to prioritize according to one of the three categories; Top Priority Actions for 2010, Long-Range Possibilities, and Progress Can Be Made in 2010.

The results of the breakout sessions from that meeting were presented for review. Ms. Beasley highlighted each Business Strategy and touched on several initiatives within the Strategy.

Proposed highlights & changes:

- Business Strategy 1: None
- Business Strategy 2: Delete "More recycling opportunities" from *Long-Range Possibilities* and add "and create more recycling opportunities" to the "Encourage our city to recycle" listed under *Progress Made in 2010*.
- Business Strategy 3: None
 - Ms. Beasley requested that Alderman Billingsley take an active role in implementing additional security cameras (a top priority). Since the cameras have been installed along the trail, there have not been any incidents along the trail.
 - In reference to the Greenway Phase VI project, which will parallel the new roadway, final design will be submitted in April.
- Business Strategy 4: None
 - Most of the work for these items has already been set in place.
 - Because the Rangers spend most of their time patrolling, they no longer have the time to provide environmental education, outsourcing for Contract instructors will be necessary.
 - The Senior Citizen's Advisory Commission held a Senior Summit this past summer and received a lot of ideas from the seniors in the community. They want to implement some of those actions and members of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be invited to participate in that effort.
 - Special Needs - Over the last 18 months, participation has grown from about 45 kids to the upper 90's so that program is growing quickly.

- Business Strategy 5: Move “Additional off leash dog area-east Germantown” and “Determine a plan for environmental education center” from *Top Priority Actions...to Long-Range Possibilities*
 - Both the off-leash area and education center are driven by funding availability. As of right now, funding is simply not available.
 - Skatepark construction is scheduled to begin in June and finish by August
 - The Historic Commission is actively involved in the John Gray house and Depot repairs.
- Business Strategy 6: Delete “Develop an employee promotion and succession plan” from *Top Priority Actions for 2010*.
 - This is a city policy issue, not a Parks and Recreation Commission issue.
 - In reference to the ...professional development plan, Ms. Beasley stated that in tough economic times funding for education is usually the first thing to be cut from the budget so staff is looking to “web-based” training. NRPA also provides very affordable “Webinars” where 10-20 people can participate for \$30-\$50. Several of these opportunities would be great for the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Business Strategy 7: None
- Business Strategy 8: None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

CIP Budget Request

Ms. Beasley reported that the following projects that staff requested based on the priorities set by the Parks and Recreation Commission’s Action Agenda Plan:

FY11:

1. Riverdale Elementary Playground Project:
 - a. Supplement to \$300,000 community grant - \$80,000
 - i. Playcore (Lisa Moore) is partnering with Germantown Baptist Rehab (Susan Stralka) and Riverdale Elementary School (Dave Carlisle, Principal) to build a first-ever “Nature Play” playground. Playcore is contributing \$150 in equipment. Baptist Rehab is contributing \$150 in cash, and the \$80 will be requested from the City will go for dirt, grading, etc. It will be a community-built playground. A community input design meeting will take place on March 31st – all Commission members will be invited.
2. Dogwood Renovation Project:
 - a. Solving the erosion problem and relocation of playground structure - \$65,000
3. Tennis Court Renovation Project:
 - a. Repairs and painting for 20 courts - \$80,000
 - i. Upon completion, all will be upgraded to “post-tension” concrete
 - ii. Many of the courts have not been addressed for up to 10 years.

4. Farmington Park Renovations:
 - a. Construction of multi-purpose field, shade structures, and fencing repairs - \$225,500

5. Cameron-Brown Park Playground Demonstration Project:
 - a. Trail of new, soft surfacing for playgrounds - \$36,550. Staff is looking at a new product called Fibar, which is loose, crushed up tires, which is poured in place and requires no maintenance for 10 years.

FY12:

1. Greenway Phase VI:
 - a. Two-mile section along the new section of Wolf River Blvd.

2. Park Master Plan
 - a. TBD

Ms. Beasley stated that Community Development should be submitting applications for the following projects:

- Amphitheatre Phase II
- Medians
- City Gateway Signs

Building Maintenance should be submitting applications for the John Gray House repairs, Depot repairs and painting, Tennis Court Lighting, and Bob Hailey Field Lighting controls.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Planning Commission

Mr. Bennett reported that the Planning Commission approved the request for a Farmer's Market. Other projects are on hold.

Tree Board

Mr. Young stated that Arbor Day is Friday, March 5th. The tree give-away will take place in conjunction with the Living Green in Germantown Expo at the Germantown Crossing parking lot from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Soccer registrations are going very well. A Soccer Advisory Council meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Sports Task Force - Policy Letter 33

Mrs. Gibson provided the following report/edits that will be considered at the March 25th Parks and Recreation Commission meeting:

- Provide for a multi-year agreement (3 years) with sports providers, at the City's option (this would have to begin after the approval of the policy change on March 25th).
- Budget information to include line item descriptions
- Delete section on transition plan for new policy guidelines.
- Residency requirement of 70% in each age group – changed to each team.
- Delivery System Information section to include: dates/times of tryouts, tournament requests, league administration details with staffing and communications plan.
- Revision of sports calendars (to add new sports).
- Provider to implement coaches' training.
- Omitted the requirements on competitive league structure.
- Evaluations completed within 60 days of the season.
- Implement a “seasonal deposit fee” for field renters - \$100 for resident teams; \$150 for non-resident teams.
- Update the list of current Facility Use Agreements with youth sports providers.

Other edits to consider:

- Allow students attending a Germantown school to be “counted” as a resident as it relates to residency requirements for competitive tryouts (non-residency fees would still apply).
- Allow non-resident recreation league players who have played in the league for at least 3 years to be able to try out for the competitive program and be “counted” as a resident (non-residency fees would still apply). The rationale being that these players have developed their skills in the Germantown program and their families have played a part in the success of the league program.

Added at the February meeting:

- Provide for a multiyear agreement with sports providers, at the City's option.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.