

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

March 18, 2009

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Ron Treabess & Judy Friedman

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Bolton, Cindy Gustafson, Layne Van Noy, Roger Adamson & Amy Norman

OTHERS PRESENT: Camille Taylor & Linda Walsh from Creekside Cooperative

Mike Willette with East West Karate

Bill Ransom, John Minnis, Tom Heron & Dave Brown from Tahoe Faith Fellowship

The March 18, 2009 meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. FAIRWAY COMMUNITY CENTER – POTENTIAL LEASE

Bob Bolton began by introducing those present from Creekside Cooperative and Tahoe Faith Fellowship church. Both parties are interested in leasing the Fairway Community Center. Since the TCPUD is still on a month-to-month lease at Rideout we would like to enter into a long term lease at Fairway rather than sell it. Mr. Bolton is in negotiations for a long term lease at Rideout but the School District needs a little more time to finalize their plans with the budget cuts they are facing. Bill Ransom said the church would be very interested in a long term lease and would like to start the negotiation process.

Mike Willette asked for the floor for a moment and introduced himself. He was there to ask that he be allowed to continue his children's karate classes at Fairway until the end of the school year because his kids get to Fairway on the school bus and he has been told there is no room on the bus to Rideout. Layne Van Noy explained that there has been discussion with TTUSD Transportation and there is room on the West Shore bus for the eight children in Mr. Willette's program. Because of this Mr. Willette will move his program to Rideout at the beginning of April. He did comment that his enrollment has been declining and he may discontinue the program after this summer.

Discussion went back to the church leasing Fairway. Because of all the keys that have been given out, John Minnis asked that the locks be changed once their lease begins. Roger Adamson agreed that the locks would be changed. Mr. Ransom stated that this lease would be a win-win situation for both the church and the PUD; everyone agreed. Talk turned to rates. Mr. Bolton stated that the rates in town range from \$0.50 to \$3.50 a square foot. Ms. Gustafson said the Starbucks space is asking \$3.25 but there are places in town as low as \$1.00. For the short term month-to-month lease we need to determine how much to charge to cover the costs incurred by the PUD.

Camille Taylor from Creekside informed the Committee that Creekside Cooperative has an interest in leasing Fairway weekdays starting in July since the church only uses it on the weekends. They would be interested in a partnership with the church and a long term lease. Ms. Taylor said another option for the school would be the opportunity of renting part of Rideout, especially if Coldstream was moved out. Coldstream is part of the TTUSD and uses part of Rideout to hold classes. Mr. Bolton mentioned that he has had this discussion with John Britto from the School District and they have no plans to move Coldstream out of Rideout at this time although there is the possible of moving it to another area of the building. Mr. Britto and Mr. Bolton have been negotiating the lease for Rideout between the TCPUD and TTUSD. Mr. Britto is ready to go over the final details and finalize a long term lease.

Ms. Gustafson said that there is the opportunity to have Creekside at Rideout. Creekside would benefit from the large field and kitchen and could contribute with grant money. Fairway doesn't really have any outside facilities.

Mr. Bolton recommended not letting any of the Fairway renters currently holding classes there remain at Fairway and it was agreed. Ms. Gustafson asked if we needed to offer the lease opportunity publicly for legal reasons but it was decided it wasn't necessary. Ms. Gustafson then asked the Committee to recommend to the Board that the PUD enter into a month-to-month lease with the church from April 1st to July 1st, and immediately begin discussions with the church and Creekside on a long term lease which would start in July. It was noted that most of the chairs and tables would be moved out of Fairway because the PUD would need them at Rideout.

The Committee directed Ms. Gustafson to contact Mr. Willette to inform him that his request to stay at Fairway has been denied because we are entering into a lease with the church.

2. PLACER COUNTY PARK DEDICATION FEES

Ms. Gustafson reported that the Truckee Donner PUD has made a request to transfer some of the park dedication fees collected by Placer County to their District for the Truckee Donner Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Gustafson is reluctant to share money unless they are willing to do the same. She recommended to the Committee to tell the Board to oppose this. Mr. Treabess and Ms. Freidman agreed to oppose and will recommend the same to the Board.

3. BOAT RAMP / QUAGGA MUSSEL UPDATE

The TRPA is currently performing inspections at no charge at the Lake Forest boat ramp for quagga mussels which might be attached to boats being launched. They are providing and paying for the inspectors. Right now the hours are 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. but as the days grow longer the limited hours are going to become an issue. The TRPA has specified that no boat ramp on Lake Tahoe can be open unless an inspector is present. Unfortunately, the TRPA is running out of the grant money they have been using to fund this project. Mr. Bolton and Mr. Adamson will be attending a TRPA meeting on March 25 to learn more.

31 inspectors are needed to fill in all the slots at all the boat ramps on the lake in order to extend the hours to 10:00 p.m. Currently, the TRPA has 17 inspectors. Mr. Bolton questioned at what point does the PUD need to jump in and keep the boat ramp open until 10:00 p.m.? Or even midnight? Up until now the WCB has not let us charge a launching fee but now may be the time to approach them concerning the possibility of charging one. Mr. Bolton has spoken to them about this but they can't give him an answer at this time. Ms. Friedman asked if the PUD has any inspectors on staff. We have two, Roger Adamson and Pete Marra. Mr. Bolton would like to see the PUD have it's own staff of inspectors, trained internally, that would be available for other tasks if not inspecting, such as maintenance. Ms. Gustafson liked the idea of our staff getting more involved with the running of the boat ramp.

Mr. Bolton then referred to a map of the boat ramp area showing where trucks would enter at the kiosk and pay their appropriate fees. If they had already been inspected they would have a zip line attached from the trailer to the boat and could drive down the middle of the parking area to the boat ramp. There would be another line for those boats waiting to be inspected. There were concerns brought up about policing the area and staff morale because those waiting to be inspected could take their frustration out on the staff.

Ms. Gustafson thinks we should pursue the WCB about charging a launching fee and tell them we might have to close the boat ramp if it starts losing too much money. She also mentioned the amount of manpower it will take if we handle all the inspections ourselves. She went on to state the staff from both the TRPA and the PUD need to sit down and come to some sort of agreement soon. Another question for the Board is whether the District is willing to put in dollars to increase the operating hours at the ramp.

Mr. Adamson brought up the subject of season pass holders and how we are going to handle them. Several people have purchased passes over the years and will expect to again this year. Currently, we are not selling passes until this issue has been resolved. The TRCD has not done any outreach to the public to prepare them for the possibility of large inspection fees being charged this summer. Ms. Gustafson asked Mr. Adamson to try to schedule a presentation by Ted Thayer who is the Natural Resource and Science Team Leader with the TRPA.

Mr. Adamson went on to mention that the TRCD and the TRPA are looking at off lake sites to do the inspections but probably wouldn't offer this until 2010. Mr. Treabess commented that this would help with the back up at the boat ramp. If the TRPA would let us take over the inspections, the TRCD would possibly help offset our costs. But our Board needs to decide what we would charge to keep costs acceptable to the public while at the same time not have the District cover too much of the costs. Mr. Treabess said he would suggest to the Board that we encourage the inspection fee if we could set our own price structure.

Mr. Van Noy went over the new format he has created for presenting recreational programs. He handed out two separate spreadsheets for each program, one which included a portion of his salary and one which did not. His salary is split out into different buckets and these spreadsheets show the effects of adding in part of his salary into the expenses. He then asked the Committee how they would like him to split his salary going forward. Mr. Treabess thought it should be based on the time he actually spends on each program, not on a percentage of revenues. Ms. Gustafson suggested he come up with a fair overhead for each program and bill on direct hours.

Mr. Van Noy then went over the 2009 Rideout Participation Report. He explained the numbers and how they were gathered. Next was the Monthly Class Participation Report which showed trends for January and February. The Committee determined that a two month comparison didn't really show enough. It was decided that a line graph comparing the participation would be done on an annual basis.

5. REVIEW PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD REPORTS / STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Bolton reported that he is still working with Karen Ellis on offsets for North Tahoe Arts' rent. He is also working with John Britto from the School District who is highly motivated to sign a long term lease with the PUD for Rideout.

Another project coming up is renewing the lease with the Cross Country concession at Highlands Community Center. Mr. Bolton has been receiving lots of positive letters from residents asking that this lease be renewed. There is concern that there is miscommunication circling about that the PUD is not going to renew this lease. We need to get word out to the community that we are renewing it.

Mr. Van Noy reported that he has been working with Granlibakken and Lake Forest Glen to set up the swim program for this spring, summer and fall. Participants can now register online for several of the activities we offer through a link on our website which connects them to Activenet.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

No one present for this item.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Amy Norman, Administrative Assistant

Prepared by Amy Norman