MINUTES OF THE MAY 29, 2012 MEETING OF THE BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission Chairman Brian Stucky called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Roll Call was taken. Members present: Pat Barth, Candice Beaver, Charles Cassaro, Don Lastoria, Recreation Commission Council Representative Rex Mack, Nanci Schlabig and Brian Stucky. Also present: Mayor Hruby, City Council Member Mike Harwood, Recreation Director Tom Tupa and Clerk of Recreation Commission Kelly McNeill, Athletic Director Pete Kormos, Assistant Aquatics Coordinator Erin Kubat, CYVO President Meg English, Blossom Hill Advisory Members Laura Redinger and Ray Andrews. Brecksville residents also present: *(See Attachment I)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2012

A motion was made by Don Lastoria and seconded by Pat Barth to dispense reading of the minutes and to approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Hruby thanked the Recreation Department for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade. Both the parade and ceremony were well attended.

Mayor Hruby presented the Survey Monkey (a total of 38 pages) to the Recreation Commission and said if there is no objection; he would like to put the survey online, making it public. This survey will be the second document posted online with public input. The Mayor stated he really appreciated the fact that so many people took time to be as specific about their feelings regarding things in the community. He does not take any of the comments as criticism, but he believes they are being constructive and takes them very seriously. The Mayor reported some people feel the City is behind. When the Community Center was built twenty years ago, it was ahead of its time and for twenty years it has served this Community well. He believes one will not find a finer fitness center that is owned by a community like the one we have. The staff does an outstanding job. The Mayor stated he also believes it is time for some additions to now come to the city as we have grown and things have also changed in the past twenty years. So many people have benefited from working out at the Community Center and using the Human Services Building. Mayor Hruby asked those in attendance to take time to read these documents. The mayor said he plans on responding to a few of the comments that he believes needs to be responded to He feels they may have some misconception as to what the goal of the City has been and is.

Mayor Hruby reported members of the Beautification Committee are present at tonight's meeting. The mayor wanted to publically acknowledge their importance to the community. During the past 20 years that this group has existed (all of whom are volunteers,) you can see the difference in the Community with the plantings, the trees, the

flowers. It has been a wonderful for our community to have this group. The Mayor hoped the Recreation Commission understood how strongly the City supports their endeavors.

Mayor Hruby reported the lights at the soccer field up at Blossom should be in by August or September. Currently waiting to put in the conduit. The electrical part of the project has been mapped out and will be installed as soon as the conduit is in.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Council Representative Rex Mack thanked the Mayor and his staff for putting together the Memorial Day ceremony. It's always a wonderful way to honor our veterans and capture the meaning of the holiday. As a reminder, Mack noted the following dates:

-Brecksville Little Theatre "On Golden Pond" June 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 22 & 23
-Home Days June 29, 30 & July 1st

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Brecksville Home Days Home Run Event: Nanci Schlabig reported the plans for the race are going well. There is a new route this year and it should be interesting. Schlabig stated she will be meeting with the Police, Fire, Service departments as well as Bob Pliske to go over the details of the event. Schlabig reported they still need runners.**
2. **Review for new outdoor pool. Recreation Director Tom Tupa reported this portion of the meeting will be used to discuss what each Recreation Commission member believes should be a priority of the outdoor pool.**

Tupa-

(1) Shade structures and plenty of them.
(2) Large concession stand (helps with generating revenue)
(3) Plenty of green space
(4) Pavilion
(5) Lots of deck space
(6) Feature rich (not only drop buckets and spray areas, but the biggest draw are the water slides) (Slides, Lazy River, Dive Well)
(7) 10 lane, 25 meter by 25 yards pool
(8) Outside lockers, coupled with a few family locker rooms and some general locker rooms
(9) Entrance Way should be placed in the middle of the walk way, swiping in & out
(10) Lights

Stucky-

(1) Shade areas & Pavilions in each corner of the pool area
(2) Recommends that the City goes a little bigger than Bay Village's pool. More like the size of Avon Lake's pool

Barth-

(1) Agreed with everything Tupa recommended
(2) Feels it is important to be "feature" rich to attract people of all ages
(3) Concessions (able to access both inside & outside of pool)
(4) Outdoor lockers

Lastoria-

(1) Looks great.

Beaver-

(1) Looks good! Feels need to focus on "green" space and plenty of it

Cassaro-

(1) Would like to see an area for Shuffle Board, Bocce Ball Courts

Mack-

-Mack asked if the trend is to get away from having hot tubs. Laura Redinger stated hot tubs were not seen in many of the outdoor facilities they saw. The trend is more toward slides.

Mayor Hruby added that he has asked Aquatics Coordinator Bob Pliske to talk to Counsilman Hunsaker to take a look at the current outdoor pool area and do a study to see how much it would cost to come up with a design to enclose the current outdoor pool. Mayor Hruby believes closing it, after the new pool is completed, would be in the best interest of the younger children allowing them to enjoy the shallow pool year round. He believes it would also take off some of the demand of the indoor pool. The Mayor assured everyone this would not derail the current project. This would be a "supplement" to the other additions being planned.

Nanci Schlabig asked the Mayor, once the plans are submitted to City Council and the Mayor, will there be public meetings held with the City Council and the architects? The Mayor said yes.

Regarding the size of the outdoor pool facility, comments were as follows:

1. **Barth feels what is built should be built for the City of Brecksville and their guests.**
2. **Beaver feels the city should consider the number of guests that will be brought in, due to sharing a school with another community. Numbers will probably be higher, so should probably go larger than a Bay Village size.**
3. **Lastoria does not have a problem building it bigger, but does not want it to end up supporting Broadview Height's swimming programs.**
4. **Cassaro asked the question again "do we want to keep the pool for Brecksville Residents only and their guests, or are we going to have to open it up to other communities to raise additional funds to operate it.**
5. **Schlabig feels if the pool is made larger, the revenue that can be generated will justify the increase in costs based on what Mark Krusinski has shown. Schlabig feels Broadview Height's residents need to included in OPEN SWIMMING, whether the City of Brecksville gives them a special discount for guest fees etc. But believes that is something that will be up to City Council.**
6. **Tupa also feels all members should be able to bring a guest.**
7. **Stucky feels the City of Brecksville should build something big enough so there is enough space for members & guest so we don't end up squeezing ourselves in.**
8. **Mack is not completely sold on the financial viability. But when it comes to that time, if the solution would be to sell memberships at a higher cost to non residents (Broadview Height's residents,) he would be completely open to that. This would absolutely be determined by what the financial viability is.**

Mayor Hruby feels the Commission needs to think about possibly selling "outdoor" pool memberships "independent" of the memberships to the Community Center. Or possibly put together a package where you can buy memberships to both. If the outdoor pool is separate, then Council could decide to open the outdoor pool memberships up to outside communities without compromising opening up of the Community Center. Our city's recreation has become an economic development tool. The question becomes, should those paying income taxes that help pay the majority of the operating expenses in our community, be able to become members of the Community Center or outdoor water facility. The city is currently looking at a "pilot" project that is going to be initiated with the Community Center allowing employees of (5) local businesses to get corporate memberships to the Brecksville Community Center.

Stucky reported at the next meeting, the Recreation Commission will discuss their thoughts on who is able to get a pool membership.

Additional Items for the Proposed Blossom Hill Site:

Joann Bartsch, a member of the Brecksville Beautification Committee gave a brief history of the Beautification Committee. Members are appointed by the Mayor and serve as advisors to him on matters of beautification for the city. The committee has been around for 20 years. Some of their projects have included: "American Bloom" (hand out beautification awards for front yards every summer), "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" (match up landscapers with citizens who need some work on their front yards), they are responsible for the planters throughout the city and the holiday decorations. The last couple of years, a Community Garden has appeared on the Beautification Committees radar "project" screen. Would like to have an area where Brecksville residents can go and garden together. After some deliberation, the committee has decided to move forward, to help organize such a garden, acting as a liaison to get it started and then mentoring its beginning.

WHAT: A Community Garden is a place where people can gather together and garden.
Many neighboring communities have Community Gardens. Most are structured as vegetable gardens with plots. But you could do a full garden where everyone works on the same garden. The movement for a Community Garden is not new. There are over 200 community gardens currently in Cuyahoga County.

WHY: **Why would the City of Brecksville want to have one?**

1. **can grow good, healthy food in your own garden (can eat locally)**
2. **provides food**
3. **provides education**
4. **can learn gardening skills & life skills**

(3 Challenges here in Brecksville: wildlife, shade & topography)

5. **develops community interaction and community pride**

Bartsch reported at the 2010 Home Days, the Beautification Committee took an informal survey. Many residents expressed an interest in a Community garden. There are (5) Master Gardeners in the City of Brecksville. Four of whom sit on the Beautification Committee. So they feel they have the technical expertise to help get this garden started. Next steps are as follows:

1. **"Asset Mapping "**
   -find out where your resources are in the community
   -who might be interested
   -who might be willing to donate their time, money, donations
2. **Meet with the City Service Director**
   -to find out what the City of Brecksville can offer in a way of support
3. **Will maintain close ties with OSU**
   -be sure that the City of Brecksville is on their list for all the funding, grants, and courses that are offered

4. Will be recruiting a "Gardening Committee" (From advertising and from the Home Days List)

-come up with a Vision for the garden, a mission statement, rules

5. While going through the "organizational" phase, Bartsch believes they can start to do some planning with respect to site selection.

-(3) Three things are absolutely needed for a garden

1. **Need at least a min. of 6 hours a day of sunlight**
2. **Need water supply**
3. **Need a fence**

***Also need to do soil testing (making sure the soil has enough nutrients and no contamination)**

Bartsch stated they would like to start with a ¼ acre lot which would allow for approximately 40 plots with some extra room for paths, a tool shed and compost pile. Bartsch showed two possible sites. (See Attachment II) She hopes that in 2013 the seeds will be growing, the tomatoes and peppers will be in and will be ready to roll. Bartsch and the Beautification Committee hopes the Recreation Commission will agree to include the Community Garden concept when planning the Blossom Hill property and they will also help support their efforts.

Brian Stucky remarked that he really likes the idea of a Community Garden. Stucky said the Recreation Commission will have to look at the "possible" locations on the Blossom property. When doing so, they should consider choosing an area that can be expanded on.

<u>Proposed Blossom Hill Property Amenities:</u> (Ray Andrews)
Blossom Hill Advisory Board Member Ray Andrews commended the Mayor and the administration for appointing this Blossom Hill Advisory Committee. Andrews stressed that each member of the Advisory Committee had the best interest of the city in mind while putting this report together.

Ray Andrews first wanted to preface by saying if this Blossom Hill Property is developed correctly, it will be a "Cradle to Grave" facility.

Amenities:

(1) Dog park

-Andrews reported he talked to three cities (Cuyahoga Falls, Ravenna & Stow) and the comments were that they wished they had made it bigger. It was well used. The people who are interested in putting in a dog park at Blossom are very passionate about it.

-The Advisory board would like to see a section of the property at Blossom used for a dog park. Andrews reported the only items needed would be a water line and a fence. It would require very little maintenance: cutting of grass, supplying poop bags and the City Service Department cleaning out the receptacles every other day.

-The Advisory Committee suggests that each owner would have to purchase a tag or license and this money would be used to help defray the costs. Andrews reported none of the communities he spoke with charge a fee.

-Andrews feels a lot of people would use the facility. He said dog owners are "self policing" folks.

-In response to Rex Mack's question, the main idea of a dog park is to allow dogs to run "leash" free, exercise and interact with other dogs.

Brecksville resident Kathy Roberts believes the whole notion of a dog park is to allow hard play for dogs (running in an undisciplined area). The appeal for very avid dog owners is that it is the best form of exercise for the dog and companion. If you have a happy owner you have a happy dog. Dog parks have taken off, in popularity, across the United States.

(2) Pavilions

-Committee believes pavilions are needed throughout the property. They provide places where people can retreat from the sun.

(3) Playgrounds

-Committee believes it is important to strategically place playgrounds throughout the property so families with younger kids can play while the older siblings are playing their sport.

(4) Walking Trails

-Andrews feels the City needs to take a Holistic approach when designing this property and make it so people can walk the property and take in all that it has to offer. Andrews again feels this meets the Cradle to Grave mentality. Anyone can walk around and enjoy the trails.

Andrews asked the Commission to consider include an area for Officials to go to dress and sit during half times and between games. It will help insure the safety of the officials.

(5) Park design

-Brian Stucky reported the Advisory Committee feels it is important to keep as many trees on the property as possible. Stucky feels the city should also consider placing walkways from one pavilion to another and walkways that encompass all areas of design. As the property is developed, a loop walkway should be considered in the design. (Rice University is a great example)

Pat Barth said he was pleased with what was presented. He felt every item was covered.

Meg English requested when designing the property, they should consider placing any new additional baseball fields farther apart for safety purposes.

Don Lastoria asked if there would be amenities by the soccer fields. Stucky said the Commission should make a recommendation for a comfort station by the soccer fields.

In response to Nanci Schlabig's question, Brian Stucky stated at the next Recreation Commission Meeting the Commission will be making their recommendations for the proposed plan. Nanci Schlabig stressed that the Recreation Commission still needs to discuss the "profit/loss" report for the field house. Recreation Director Tom Tupa reported the City has requested and is still waiting for numbers from the City of Independence.

Stucky reminded everyone, that when a request is made, only the *cost estimates* will be given. (Use & Up-keep of the facility compared to what they bring in) The numbers that are not reflected in the report are what the facility costs.

Mayor Hruby mentioned the City needs to take into consideration that "Wetland" issues still need to be addressed. Some of the areas suggested for development may be dictated "unbuildable" by the Army Corps of Engineers and may need to be relocated. The last item that needs to be addressed is the cemetery. The Mayor reported the City of Brecksville is out of cemetery space. The issue before the City is whether or not we want to continue to service our community with burials. The Mayor asked the Commission to please keep this in mind when mapping out the proposed area. Five to ten acres, set aside, should last the residents up to 100 years.

In response to Brecksville resident Margaret Ritzmann's comment, Mayor Hruby said he is aware that the Metroparks has applied for a grant to pave a trail, tying in the bridge on Valley Parkway between Route 21 and Broadview Road. The mayor reported the proposed Blossom Hill Facility could be accessed from the Valley Parkway, Barr Road, and Oakes Rd.

Recreation Director Tom Tupa reported the Community Center will be running a "Pilot Program" beginning July 9, 2012 through October 31, 2012 in which the Community Center will be opening weekdays at 5am.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Rex Mack and seconded by Candice Beaver to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kelly McNeill
Clerk of Commission

Attachment I

BRECKSVILLE RESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE OF THE MAY 29, 2012 RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Margaret Ritzmann	**6935 Cranbrook**	**440-546-9054**	**ritzmma@aol.com**
Mark Krusinski	**9490 Glen Drive**	**440-717-0665**	**mark@emeraldresourcegroup.com**
Andy Gray	**4401 Euclid Avenue**	**216-432-0696**	**agray@moodynolan.com**
Meg English	**10084 Deer Run**	**440-526-1485**	**meg822@sbcglobal.net**
Jane Zawacki	**10946 Fitzwater**		**j.zawacki@sbcglobal.net**
Kathy Roberts	**5300 Miller Rd.**		**kannroberts@sbcglobal.net**
Kathy Ziemba	**8207 Montridge Ct.**		**kziemba@cityofparma-oh.gov**
Lynda Sabat	**9320 Stover Lane**		**lsabat@aol.com**
Kathleen Deuch	**5906 Fawn Lane**		**kdeu4@aol.com**
Donna Shirer	**9407 Snowville**		**dshirer@adelphia.net**