

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

May 20, 2009

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Erik Henrikson and Judy Friedman

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin & Valli Murnane, Virginia Graham, Jim Robbins, Paul Valistas, Peter Taylor, David Clohessy, Ellen Petteroe, Eric Brandt and Don Heaps

The May 20, 2009 meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

1. TAHOE CROSS COUNTRY SKI EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONTRACT RENEWAL

Bob Bolton began with introducing those present. Several were present in regards to the contract that is up for renewal with the TCPUD and the Tahoe Cross Country Center (TCCSEA). Mr. Bolton asked the Committee to recommend to the Board that we renew the lease for another 10 years. The contract is basically the same as before with just some minor wording changes. Discussion followed.

It was pointed out all the improvements planned that would be paid for by TCCSEA including replacing the carpet and remodeling the restrooms. The lease they have states that they pay the PUD \$1.00 per year, plus 5% of anything above \$250,000 in revenue. In 2008 this was about \$8,000 and a little less for this year. They supply the PUD with a financial report at the end of their fiscal year (June 30) along with their payment.

Mr. Henrikson asked if there was the possibility of using the area for anything in the summer. Mr. Bolton replied that we are only responsible for the lands during the winter. Cal. State Parks is responsible during the summer and we wouldn't want to take on that liability. Ms. Graham asked if the repairs being planned and paid for by TCCSEA are in addition to the 5% and they are.

Mr. Bolton went on to comment on all the positive letters he has received on the cross country operation. There was one request and that was to increase the amount of trails that dogs are allowed on. Mr. Murnane responded that they do have trails for dogs but through trial and error they have to keep a separation between dog and non-dog trails so the dog trails are limited.

Mr. Bolton then asked the Committee for permission to take the contract to the Board for approval.

Mr. Valistas asked to speak. He first pointed out that he is in support of the facility and the people running it. His conflict is that the Parks and Recreation Department is heavily subsidized

by tax dollars and since the PUD rates just increased 20% then Parks and Recs needs to increase their revenues and raise the rent. Or at least have a minimum rent they have to pay. Also, maybe they should consider different pass rates for residents and non-residents to increase some revenue there. Could we save costs by utilizing PUD staff to help run the business? Mr. Henrikson replied about the pass rates and said that is an issue for the TCCSEA. Mr. Bolton responded that the minimum rent would be a Board decision. And as far as having the PUD help staff it, we don't have any extra staff. The facility has been run as a concession for quite a long time and will continue to do so.

Mr. Robbins who is President of the Cross County Ski Association then spoke. He stated that for years the facility was ran very poorly so the PUD hired a consultant who recommended to them that they hire a non-profit to run the cross country center. That was when they formed the Cross Country Ski Association who put up the first \$250,000 to operate the business for the first five years. They are non-profit and have managed to stand on their own; to ask for a raised rent only benefits the tax payers which seems unfair in this situation. The Association creates jobs, donates to the schools and the community, and has over 43 volunteer instructors who help with the children's programs to keep many of them free.

Mr. Brandt spoke next. He is a local resident, user of the center, neighbor and PUD supporter. He echoes the positive comments, that Mr. and Mrs. Murnane run an exceptional business, are superb with the guests, and do an excellent job providing a benefit to the community and visitors alike.

Mr. Heaps expressed his hopes that the PUD appreciates the benefit provided by TCCSEA. They are a great opportunity for our youth and a priceless benefit to our community.

Ms. Friedman expressed her feeling that the right people are funning this facility. She asked how many skiers they had this year. Mr. Murnane estimated that it was 23,000. She then asked how many people participate in the free programs offered. Ms. Murnane answered 6,000, most of these being students. Ms. Freidman then mentioned that, like with North Tahoe Arts, there should be a cost analysis performed. What is the actual cost to the PUD of running this building?

Ms. Friedman then recommended that this contract go before the Board for approval. She did add that she would like to see a cost benefit analysis at some point. Mr. Bolton stated that he would take the lease to the Board on Tuesday with Committee recommendation to approve.

2. REVIEW PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD REPORTS/STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Van Noy reported on Recreation. Adult sports (Volleyball and Basketball) were 100% cost recovery this past winter.

Our sailing program won a national award this year for running the best program in the country. This is based on the size of the program and the population base.

Mr. Adamson reported on Parks. The bike trails officially opened today. His crew is working on sealing cracks and replacing damaged signs.

All athletic fields are open. Irrigation is up and running. All parks are open and are being serviced routinely.

Cal. State Parks has completed the tree removal at Skylandia. 100% of this was paid for by the State. Mr. Henrikson asked who would be removing the mess that was made. Mr. Adamson responded that the State will be coming back to clean it up.

The Lake Forest Boat Launch has increased staff and more have been certified to do the inspections. They are all trying to 'keep the peace' out there with all that is happening. Mr. Bolton added that this issue has taken a lot of PUD time. We have had to increase the staff, train them, increase hours, etc. This is why the Board was approached to change the parking fee to a launch fee and increase the pass prices. The hours of operation are now 5:00 am to 11:00 pm and the PUD is staffing a lot of these additional hours. The TRPA will start charging for inspections June 1. The PUD will start charging the launch fee as soon as we get approval from the WCB.

Mr. Bolton reported that he has a draft contract with TTUSD for renting Rideout. He hopes to bring the long term lease to the Board soon.

He has the final draft of the North Tahoe Arts lease ready to be brought to the Committee. The only thing they are still negotiating is offsets. He will bring the offsets and the contract to the Committee meeting in June.

Mr. Bolton is also working on the lease for the Visitor's Center. They are working on offsets for rent that would involve completing projects on the building. One possible project is to finish installing heating in the sidewalks which they would pay for.

The Fairway Community Center has been temporally leased to Tahoe Faith Fellowship through July 1. All programs that were at Fairway have been moved to Rideout Community Center. The goal is to get a long term lease for the building by July 1.

Discussion went back to the boat ramp. Mr. Bolton noted how much time he has spending on this issue concerning the inspections, staffing, signage, etc. No one can foresee all the issues that will continue to emerge going forward. Mr. Robbins asked about traffic control. Mr. Bolton explained that we will have to have staff both at the kiosk and at the top of the ramp to control traffic.

Customers will only pay once at the kiosk for both their inspection and launch fee. This should help the flow a bit.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Jim Robbins thanked the PUD for all their efforts.

Mr. Valistas added that he is also very pleased with the PUD.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Amy Norman, Administrative Assistant

Prepared by Amy Norman