

November 15, 2011
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The Recreation Facilities Management Review Task Force for the City of Newport met on the above date in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall. In attendance were Fred Springsteen, Jeff Schrantz, and Thomas Hurst, and Ed Simon. Pat Cowan, Josie Bissell, and Phil Jackson were unable to attend. Also in attendance was Councilor Sandy Roumagoux.

Staff present was City Recorder Hawker, Finance Director Marshall, and Parks and Recreation Director Protiva.

CONTINUED REVIEW OF FACILITY VISIT INFORMATION

Protiva and Schrantz distributed information regarding recreation facilities.

Simon reported that the Kroc Center is struggling, and that the Boys and Girls Clubs of Eugene have closed. Cowan reported that Forest Grove does not have a recreation center, but that the pool operates on a 50% subsidy. He added that the McMinnville pool receives a 58% subsidy, and that the recreation center receives a subsidy of between 48% - 55%. He noted that these facilities cannot operate without a subsidy. He asked what the acceptable level of support (city subsidy) would be. Springsteen suggested utilizing management techniques that would incent employees to think creatively, and to award initiative. A discussion ensued regarding creating a "friends" group for the pool and recreation center. Simon stated that the City Council has to back off the "friends" issue as this is management by chaos. He added that he feels like the City Council shuts off ideas from the Recreation Advisory Committee. He noted that the culture needs to change. He stated that a survey is needed, as soon as possible, so that people have the opportunity to tell what they want. Springsteen asked who would conduct the survey, and Simon noted that this Task Force could develop a survey. Protiva noted that he has a survey from the Chamber of Commerce. Hurst noted that there are two issues; one is increased independence and efficiency of the cost centers; and the other is how to allow the community an opportunity to comment. Simon reiterated that the City Council had said no to the establishment of a "Friends of the Recreation Center" group. Protiva noted that there has not been a statement as to the value of the recreation services to the community. Cowan noted that surveys could be specific to the pool, recreation center, and senior center. He suggested that each department develop fundraisers for its individual programs. He suggested establishing a subsidy amount, and turning the creative people loose with a "friends" group. Protiva noted that his hope is to identify needs for a community foundation. Springsteen noted that this can be accomplished using imagination, but to encourage imagination, the City Council must adopt another style. Simon noted that there has to be a buy-in from everyone, and a good public relations campaign. Cowan had three suggestions: establish a dollar level of support for the Parks and Recreation divisions; allow independence for each division; and establish a support group for each division. Springsteen reported that grant funding

is available. Protiva asked who the driving force would be to make these things happen. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has a role, and that a foundation would have a different role. Springsteen noted that he has many acquaintances who are attorneys, and he will ask whether any are willing to write foundation guidelines. Simon noted that services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department add to the livability, wellness, and security of children in the community. Hurst noted that the Task Force was asked to consider whether contracting recreation services would be a cost savings. He added that this should be addressed along with a recommendation that radical change, such as contracting, does not seem like a resolution to the problem. He noted that other groups, such as YMCA's, have endowments that can be used when revenue is short. He suggested exploring foundations now to allow citizens to invest in these services without a bond issue. Springsteen reported that Me Fitness is interested in taking over programming at the recreation center. It was suggested that the Task Force develop an executive summary that includes the task, the work that has been done, and recommendations. Springsteen and Cowan agreed to work on this summary and bring it to the next meeting for Task Force review.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

It was agreed to meet on November 29, 2011, at 5:30 P.M.

ESTABLISH A DATE TO MEET WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

It was agreed to meet with the City Council on December 5, 2011, at noon.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.