

Veteran's Memorial Building Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Indianola Activity Center

Present: Commission Members Ray Walton, Rick Branson, Bob Greener, and Darwin Brown. VMAC Director, Jeff Lucas, and Recreation Superintendent, Doug Bylund.

### **Item #1 – Call to order**

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Lucas, Director - Veteran's Memorial Aquatic Center, at 7:30pm. Director introduced himself as most commission members had not met him. Director discussed briefly his experiences this past pool season and his excitement for the 2015 season.

### **Item #2 – Vacant Building Commission Seat**

Director notified commission members of the resignation of Commission Member Mr. Dan Aldridge. Mr. Aldridge cited a need for someone else to be more active with his vacated seat. Director has notified Recreation Superintendent, City Manager, and Mayor. Mayor Shaw will appoint the vacant Commission seat. Director has asked Mayor to fill vacant seat by early spring.

### **Item #3 – Annual Report**

Director submitted the 2014 Annual Report to Commission members. Items included in the annual report are as followed: front cover narrative from Director, 2014 Attendance and history, Facility Expenses/Revenue, Concessions Expenses/Revenue, and Pool Staff listing. Much discussion took place about declining attendance and the factors attributed to the decline. Director updated Commission on the weather factors of 9 days of 90 degree temperatures in 2014, compared to 37 days of 90 degrees in 2013. Director stated that ultimately all facets of revenue will be short of projections based on all factors discussed.

Discussion took place, with input from Recreation Superintendent Bylund, about the historical net profit/loss of the facility. The facility has been operating at a deficit for approximately 7 years. This deficit has given the facility a negative balance in the city-wide treasury report. Tax allocation, from City Council, has been appropriated to the facility to decrease said negative balance. Approximately \$42,000 was paid to the negative balance in FY 2013-14. The negative balance is currently \$80,000.

2014 improvements were outlined by Director. Concrete repairs made in the spring of 2014 have saved approximately \$30,000 in chemical and utility costs. Commission members supported those types of investments in the facility. Twenty new lounge chairs were purchased in 2014. Iowa Realty has renewed their umbrella top sponsorship in the amount of \$2,500. Director encouraged Commission members to

reach out to Barb McMurry, Broker - Iowa Realty, and thank her for their support. All other umbrella tops are currently being repaired for the 2015 season. Director eliminated one concession stand position, going from four to three attendants.

All five lilly pads were replaced in 2014. This expense was approximately \$7,000.

2015 tentative plans were discussed by Director. The Pool Shell is in desperate need of re-painting. Director explained the issues with the shell's paint peeling off, ultimately making the pool water cloudy, or murky. Because of this, the pool must be closed due to safety concerns. Director hopes that City Council will support a larger, yearly maintenance budget. Commission members supported this request.

#### **Item #4 – City Council Work Session Presentation Update**

Director thanked Commission Member Walton and Superintendent Bylund for attending and helping present to Council at the work session. Director felt the work session was a positive for the facility as good, honest discussion took place with Council. Director explained the basis of the presentation. Commission members were emailed the PowerPoint presentation prior to City Council being presented.

#### **Item # 5 – YMCA Partnership/Recruiting**

Director explained how the Indianola YMCA and the Parks and Recreation Department have discussed partnering on lifeguarding staff, and also on bundling services for the Indianola community. Director has discussed with Indianola YMCA staff about adding Aquatic Center membership benefits to YMCA members at a discounted rate. The feasibility of this venture is still being looked at. Commission members agreed that bundling services is a current trend and approved of the venture. Details will be updated to Commission at a later date.

#### **Item #6 – 3-5 year Facility Plan**

Director discussed the importance of a maintenance plan for the facility. Much deferred maintenance has taken place over the previous ten years and Director explained it is time to get something on paper and where money to fund those items will be allocated from. Commission members agreed that projects need to be planned for and money needs to be allocated for the long term of the facility.

#### **Item #7 – 2015 Season Dates**

With Commission approval, the 2015 season dates were approved. Tentative opening day will be Saturday, May 23 and closing day will be Sunday, August 16. Dates may be subject to change according to weather and new school calendar dates. Director discussed the modification of facility operating hours. Director has received feedback from a staff survey conducted in fall 2014. Much of this feedback pertained to operating hours and how the facility can be more efficient in offering services. Hours will become more consistent from day to day, lap swim hours will be minimally reduced, and tot swim offering will be increased with a Saturday morning offering for users that typically work during the week day.

**Item #8 – WCPP Grant**

Director successfully obtained a grant award from the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership in the amount of \$4,994.36. Monies will be used to purchase 75 new lounge chairs. Commission members were shown pictures of the new chairs.

**Item #9 – Wal-Mart Grant Application**

Director has applied for a grant in the amount of \$2,500 from the Indianola Wal-Mart. Deadline was Dec. 31. Director anticipated being updated on the status of the grant late January. If the grant is successful, funds will be used to replace lilly pad safety padding.

**Item #10 – Comments from Commission Members**

Commission Member Aldridge spoke about the importance of fixing and maintaining important infrastructure like pumps, roofing, flow meters, etc. Commission members agreed that those costs are large up-front, but cost effective in the end. Commission member Walton spoke about the importance of meeting with City Council to show and discuss the challenges at the facility. Walton suggested staff and Commission members meet with Council in early May to show and demonstrate the importance of repairs and allocating money to the facility for the good of the community. Commission members agreed that the Aquatic Center is an important asset to the community and is a quality of life issue to all.

**Item #11 – Next Meeting Date**

The next Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 1, 2015. Director explained he would be in contact with Commission before then to update them on facility issues.

**\*Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm**