

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6495
Fax (412) 350-6499*



Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2006

5:00 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Parks

Joan Cleary, Chair; Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, and Jan Rea - Members

I. Call to Order**Invited Guests:**

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Andy Baechle, Director, Parks

Summary: *Invited Guests in attendance: Mr. Baechle, Derek Uber for Mr. Flynn*

Recognized attendees: Clarence Hopson, Parks

Council staff in attendance: Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Summary: *Non Committee Council Members in Attendance: Council Member Gastgeb*

Roll Call: Present: Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Jan Rea, and Joan Cleary

III. Approval of Minutes

2469-06 Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 31, 2006 Parks Committee Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made by Rea, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinances**

2444-06 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing facility and recreational rates and fees for the use of County recreational and park facilities effective April 1, 2006.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Baechle said that the administration has put forth very few changes in the fee schedule. One of the changes is that the schedule will remain in effect until Council changes it. He discussed other small items that changed. He said that they are also adding the Rugby Field rates formally in the bill, which has not been done for years. He said they would like to be able to run promotional discount rates at their own discretion from time to time. He said that is not in the bill but would like to be able to do it.*

Ms. Cleary asked if there would be any limits to doing this. Mr. Baechle said they could set limits however Council wishes to do it. Ms. Caldwell said that in the past they did reduce Wave Pool rates during a summer with bad weather. Mr. Baechle said that he would be reluctant to reduce anything for a whole season. He said that would undermine the fee schedule. He said that he would not be opposed to adjusting rates occasionally.

Mr. Finnerty was in favor of the idea but said that he would like Council to receive

notice when this occurs. Mr. Gastgeb also spoke in favor of occasionally reducing rates. Ms. Cleary said they could approve the bill in committee and amend it on the floor at the March 21, 2006 Regular Meeting.

Discussion took place on various fees contained in the bill. Mr. Gastgeb asked if Snowmobile fees were reduced for non-profit organizations. Mr. Baechle said that a 50% reduction for non-profits was written into every fee.

Mr. Gastgeb said that he thinks they should give the Parks Department the discretion to create long term rental fees of exhibit buildings. He said that they should consider writing a long term fee option into the bill. Ms. Cleary said that they should be examined on a case by case basis. Mr. Finnerty said that they should include the policy with a provision that requires it to come before Council prior to granting this. Mr. Gastgeb said that the county should have some policy in place. Mr. Finnerty said he agreed, but said that he would like them to come before council. Mr. Gastgeb said that he will propose this as an amendment at the March 21, 2006 Regular Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made by Burn, seconded by Rea, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2445-06

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement with the Mon Valley Drum and Bugle Corp for use of Exhibit Building #8 and #10 in South Park.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Baechle said that this was still under negotiation and asked that the bill be held.*

Action: **Held in Committee**

Non-Agenda Items

Summary: *Mr. Gary Schwartz, a member of the public who operates a shaved ice cart in North Park, expressed concern that other people selling ice cream will place his concession in jeopardy. He said that he placed a bid on the Boathouse Galley to try to take the spot that the ice cream concessions are looking at. Mr. Baechle said that there was nothing he could do to stop the bidding for an ice cream concession in the Boathouse. Mr. Schwartz said that it would hurt his business.*

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM*