

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: April 16, 2009

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:01 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:37 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Susie Day, Chair
Monroe Gray
Janice McHenry
Mike McQuillen
William Oliver
Mike Speedy

Absent Members

Vernon Brown

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 116, 2009 - appropriates \$514,308 in the 2009 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks and Federal Grants Funds) to fund after school activities, trail system repairs and expansion, pool staff, monitoring costs of the Summer Food Program, and restoration and maintenance activities at area parks

"Do Pass"

Vote 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 117, 2009 - approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$1 million for the support of the arts

"Do Pass"

Vote 6-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, April 16, 2009. Chair Susie Day called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. with the following members present: Janice McHenry, Mike McQuillen, William Oliver, and Mike Speedy. Monroe Gray arrived shortly thereafter, and Vernon Brown was absent. Councillor Ed Coleman was also in attendance.

PROPOSAL NO. 116, 2009 - appropriates \$514,308 in the 2009 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks and Federal Grants Funds) to fund after school activities, trail system repairs and expansion, pool staff, monitoring costs of the Summer Food Program, and restoration and maintenance activities at area parks

Angela Daniel, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), reviewed a list of grants, attached as **Exhibit A**. She said that Proposal No. 116, 2009 appropriates eight grants, and that each one has generated revenue, except for \$11,079. Ms. Daniel said there is no revenue for this grant because it came in last year, but it was not spent. Ms. Daniel said this list indicates whether the grants are locally or federally funded, and states their purpose. Stuart Lowry, Director, DPR, said the after-school grant is the highest appropriation, and will be in effect for four years. He said there is also a summer food program grant.

Councillor Speedy asked if 60% of the grants are for after-school programs. Mr. Lowry answered in the affirmative. Councillor Speedy asked if the \$129,875 grant for DNR-Federal Highway Administrations-Southeastway Recreational Trail is for supplies. Don Colvin, Deputy Director, DPR, said it is a grant that DPR applied for through the state Department of Natural Resources. He said this grant is for trails within the parks, and that the Southeast Park Trail has deteriorated to gravel. Mr. Colvin said they plan to lay several thousand feet of new trail, with several areas ranging from six to eight feet wide. He said Character 04 funds are for construction, and Character 01 funds are for salaries. Ms. Daniel said that Character 02 is for supplies, and Character 03 is for food programs because they fall under contracted services.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Monroe Gray arrived at 5:07 p.m.}

Councillor Oliver commended Mr. Lowry for following through with the plans which he implemented last year. Councillor Oliver asked for an explanation of how the maintenance and restoration funds will be used for certain area parks. Brenda Howard, Project Manager, DPR, said one of the grants is for Town Run Trail South, and its purpose is to naturalize the park. The funds for Marrott Park were provided at the beginning of the project, and its purpose was to restore the

Park and to remove and control invasive species; while the funds for Eagle Creek are for Habitat Restoration. Councillor Oliver asked if any of the funds listed on **Exhibit A** are stimulus funds. Mr. Lowry answered in the negative. He said these projects are funded by grants. Councillor Oliver asked Mr. Lowry if all of the after-school projects that were in effect prior to him becoming Director are still in effect. Mr. Lowry answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Gray asked if the monitoring costs of the food program are new. He said to the best of his knowledge, that fee has always been included in the cost of the summer food program. Leslie Power, Administrator, School and Family Program, DPR, said the monitoring costs are already included in the cost of the summer food program. She said it was already in the budget, and it is underwritten by the grant. Councillor Gray asked if there are additional personnel costs for food distribution. Ms. Power answered in the negative.

Councillor Speedy moved, seconded by Councillor McHenry, to send Proposal No. 116, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 117, 2009 - approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$1 million for the support of the arts

Greg Charleston, Executive Director, Arts Council of Indianapolis, introduced Shawn Mulholland, Chairman of the Board, and David Lawrence, Vice President, Arts Council of Indianapolis. Mr. Mulholland thanked the committee for their past support of the Arts, and reiterate why it is important to invest in the Arts community. He said there was an economic study a few years ago that showed the Arts generated \$468,000,000 for Indianapolis, and it generates \$52,000,000 in local and state tax revenue, as well as creating 15,000 jobs. He said the Arts also contribute to a thriving downtown area, generate a cultural tourism industry, as well as being a significant success for downtown strategy. He said that the money which the committee approves does some wonderful things for the community.

Mr. Charleston also thanked the entire Arts Council Board, many in attendance at this evening. Mr. Charleston said Mr. Lawrence has also done a wonderful job managing the grants for the past ten years. Mr. Charleston said the Art Council's number one responsibility is to keep the Arts flourishing, despite the negativity of the economy. He said the economy has affected all of the Arts organizations. Mr. Charleston said that the grant funding has been reduced by 35% this year; the Capital Improvement Board (CIB) funding has been reduced by 13%; and the state funding, which is redistributed to central Indiana and Marion County, has been reduced by 10%. There is a proposed 8% funding cut pending for July 1, 2009. Mr. Charleston listed some of the programs that are affected by the budget cut.

Art with the Heart will serve over 300 less children, and Clowes Memorial Hall will stop two of its eight programs and will drop 3,000 free tickets to at-risk students. Dance Kaleidoscope will reduce their class offerings by half, and Free Towne Village will reduce their monthly outreach programs to five or six from about twice that number. Summer day camp will be reduced this summer, and the Harrison Center will cut back on Crime reduction programs. The Indianapolis Children's Choir will consider raising tuition costs, and the Symphonic Choir will reduce outreach programs that impact 1,800 students. Music for All will lose its ability to continue programming to Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) and Marion County students, and VSA Arts of Indiana will cut their weekly program that serves adults with disabilities. The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is also cutting their free summer concert at Garfield and Holliday Parks.

Mr. Charleston said, on a positive note, attendance has increased at some of the organizations, and they are being strategic about the Arts funding. He said there is more collaboration, and there are significant operations to reduce ticket prices. He said the Children's Museum is offering \$1 tickets to low-income families. The Arts Council has applied for \$250,000 in federal economic stimulus money, and they should find out the status of that application by June 1, 2009. Mr. Charleston said that this funding supports 52 not-for-profit arts organizations, specifically for education and community outreach, free concerts, youth and senior programs, free festivals, and neighborhood initiatives. He said less than 4% of the funding is used for program services such as marketing, online services, consumer information, and research. Mr. Charleston said overall there is a 56% reduction in program services from 2008. He said this is the second step of a two-part funding distribution process, and every organization has received a 15% to 25% reduction in funding.

Mr. Lawrence said the only organizations that were eligible for funding in 2009 were the ones that received funding in 2008. Members of those organizations were required to attend grant workshops in December, 2008, and the Arts Council received grant applications in January, 2009. Mr. Lawrence said they also saved money by not bringing in an out-of-state adjudication panel. He said they have a wonderful, strong Arts community of which they are very proud. Mr. Charleston asked members of the Arts community that support this funding to stand.

Councillor McQuillen asked how they determined whether an organization would get a small or large amount of funding. Mr. Lawrence said they consider the organization's budget size. He said, typically the grants fund no more than 2% to 5% of the organization's operating budget. McQuillen asked if the \$1,000,000 that they are asking for has already been through the Council approval process, and if this is a formality of distributing the funds. Chair Day answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Gray congratulated the Arts Council for a job done well.

Ernie Shearer, citizen, said he has a daughter and son-in-law whose income is supported by the Arts. He said he likes the Arts, but he does not support more funding for the Arts. Art should not be allowed to replace memorials to veterans.

Chair Day said she does not think that the Arts Council decides where art will be displayed. Mr. Charleston said the Art display that will be put in front of the library downtown is a part of the public art funding, and will not be taken from the allocated funds.

Councillor Coleman said he has great respect for the Arts, but he is fiscally conservative. He said by the end of the year, the city will probably be over budget; and as far as he is concerned, the local government is responsible for the safety and well being of the citizens. He said they should also provide good roads, electricity, water, sewers, and all of the primary things necessary to take care of the citizens. He said he is against giving taxpayer dollars to any private organizations, and he feels that it is a mismanagement of funds. He said the Capital Improvement Board is already receiving taxpayer funds, so double-dipping is already taking place. He asked the members of the committee to vote against this allocation.

Councillor McQuillen said the Council approved \$1,500,000 last year, and reduced it to \$1,000,000 dollars for 2009. This shows that the Council is fiscally conservative. He said he thinks that the Council has made a step in the right direction. Councillor McQuillen said they are not there to affirm or deny the \$1,000,000, because it has already been approved. Their responsibility with this proposal is to allocate the money.

Councillor McHenry moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal No. 117, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Day, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

SD/cj

Exhibit A

**Department of Parks & Recreation
Fiscal Proposal No. 116, 2009**

Grantor	Purpose	Funds	Character 1	Character 2	Character 3	Character 4	TOTAL
United Way	After School Program	Local	40,543				40,543
Hoover Family Fund	Summer Food Program	Local	9,600				9,600
DNR-Federal Highway Administration	Southeastway Recreational Trails	Federal				129,875	129,875
21 Cent IN Dept of Ed Comm Learning Cntr	After School Program	Federal	200,000	5,000	45,000		250,000
Mary Rigg-US Dept of Education	George Washington Comm School Program	Federal	9,000				9,000
US Dept of Interior Fish & Wildlife	Town Run Park	Federal		4,645	53,662		58,307
US Dept of Interior Fish & Wildlife	Eagle Creek Habitat Restoration	Federal			5,904		5,904
US Dept of Interior Fish & Wildlife	Marrott Park Restoration	Federal		3,500	7,579		11,079
			259,143	13,145	112,145	129,875	514,308