

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: July 2, 2009

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

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

Absent Members

Vernon Brown
Monroe Gray

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 233, 2009 - approves an additional appropriation of \$181,455 in the 2009 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Federal Grants Fund) to fund increased costs of food service contracts pertaining to the Summer Food Program

"Do Pass"

Vote: 5-0

PROPOSAL NO. 234, 2009 - reallocates and approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$1,000,000 for the support of the arts

"Do Pass"

Vote: 5-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, July 2, 2009. Chair Susie Day called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Janice McHenry, Mike McQuillen, William Oliver, and Mike Speedy. Vernon Brown and Monroe Gray were absent.

PROPOSAL NO. 233, 2009 - approves an additional appropriation of \$181,455 in the 2009 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Federal Grants Fund) to fund increased costs of food service contracts pertaining to the Summer Food Program

Stuart Lowry, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) said that recently had attended the James Foster Gaines dedication, and that he really enjoyed the event. He said Councillor Oliver was in attendance, and he received a very nice note from Carolyn Gaines Hill, the daughter of Mr. Gaines. Mr. Lowry said the Pacers Basketball team was also in attendance. Mr. Lowry said there will be a sandcastle event in about two weeks at Garfield Park and that this event will include 200 tons of sand and six sand sculptures. He said this event will run about a month long. Mr. Lowry said recently they had Indy Parks Day on Monument Circle, which was organized by Public Information Officers Jennifer Evans and Paula Freund, DPR. He said this showcased the different departments of DPR, and the United Waters wagon was dedicated. He said they have gotten approximately a \$400,000 scholarship from United Water over the years to help with the wagon and spray grounds. He said they opened spray grounds at Ellenberger and Lasalle Parks. He said they also received national Hall of Fame recognition for the Monon Trail.

Leslie Power, Administrator, School and Family Services, DPR, said this is the 10th year for the summer food program. She said they will be reimbursed by federal funds through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Ms. Power said they have spent more than they originally appropriated for 2009, and they have also added breakfast for this year. She said they are asking for more money to cover expenses, and they will get the money back in revenue. Mr. Lowry said they have added more services and children this year.

Angela Daniel, Chief Financial Officer, DPR, said part of this program is funded by brand new revenue, which DPR gets from the entitlement program. The other part is funded by transfers between characters that they thought they were going to have last year, but did not receive. Ms. Daniel said they already had an appropriation of federal dollars for a middle school after-school program that they are not doing. She said they used that appropriation, and the extra \$84,325 will be new revenue. The rest of the program is funded by a transfer between characters.

Chair Day asked how many children this program serves. Mr. Lowry said it serves between 140,000 to 160,000 children. He said they are expecting an increase because they have added breakfast. Mr. Lowry said he does not know how many new children will be served; and that it may be that the children who were getting one meal a day will now get two. He said they are trying to increase the number of meals that the children will receive, and there are a number of sites that are participating in this program. He said they expect to serve between 3,200 to 3,400 children daily, but they will have a more definite number by the end of July. He said they expect to increase this service to 200,000 or 300,000 over the next two to three years. Chair Day asked Mr. Lowry how many sites are participating in this program. Mr. Lowry said about 26 Indy Parks locations are participating. Ms. Power said they started with about 90 sites, and that number has been reduced to about 83. Chair Day asked if all of the sites participating are Parks. Mr. Lowry answered in the negative. He said about one-third are parks, and the rest are partnership organizations such as churches and not-for-profit organizations.

Chair Day asked if non-members can participate in this program. Ms. Power answered in the affirmative. She said children are served on a first-come, first-served basis. Mr. Lowry said the Parks are qualified within the school district for the lunch program. Ms. Power said any child from the public, 18 or younger, is eligible to participate in this program.

Councillor McHenry said she read an article recently about a site that was preparing over 200 meals daily, but were only serving 30. She asked if this is a common practice, or if these meals are constantly being adjusted. She further asked how the word is getting to the public that these children can participate in this program. Ms. Power said that DPR follows very strict guidelines about service time, and they base it on previous service. She said they want to have enough meals, but they do not want to have a lot of waste. She said at the end of the two-hour service time, meals that can be refrigerated are, but meals that cannot be refrigerated, are not. Ms. Power said they only get reimbursed for the meals that they serve, not the meals that they buy. She said they should break even, but they are making adjustments daily.

Councillor Speedy asked what the source is for the new revenue of \$84,325. Ms. Daniel said the source is new federal dollars from the government. Ms. Daniel said it is an increase to the grant that was anticipated in the budget. She said the program grew a little more than what they originally thought it would last year, and now they realize that it is going to cost more. Councillor Speedy asked Ms. Daniel if they are decreasing personal services and supplies. Ms. Daniel answered in the affirmative. She said the funds were originally intended for an after-school middle school program, but they never used the funds for that purpose.

Ms. Daniel said that the funds were originally put in Character 01, but they need to be moved to Character 03. She said that she was not in her current position last year, so is not sure why the funds were put in Character 01. Councillor Speedy asked if the summer food program is administered from Character 03. Ms. Daniel answered in the affirmative. She said that all of the contracted services are funded through Character 03. Councillor Speedy asked why funds for supplies are being reduced. Ms. Daniel said Character 02 is being reduced because there were funds there for services that DPR is not going to do now. Councillor Speedy asked if the increase of the budget will only be for the increase in reimbursement. Ms. Daniel answered in the affirmative. She said they are shifting funds from places that they are not needed to places where they are needed.

Councillor McQuillen moved, seconded by Councillor McHenry to send Proposal No. 233, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Ben Wissell, citizen, asked Ms. Power how it is possible to serve more meals than have been purchased. Ms. Power said the reimbursement rate is higher than what DPR pays for the meals. Mr. Wissell asked who qualifies for the summer food program. Ms. Power said the site qualifies an individual based on the school that is closest to the site. She said if 50% of the school offers free or reduced lunch, then that will qualify the site for the program; and any child that comes to that site during the service time qualifies. She said the children do not have to prove that they qualify.

PROPOSAL NO. 234, 2009 - reallocates and approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$1,000,000 for the support of the arts

Shawn Mulholland, President of the Board of Directors, Arts Council of Indianapolis, said they budgeted a \$1,000,000 allotment for the 2009 budget, and they were also expecting a \$1,000,000,000 allotment from the Capital Improvement Board, but that has been altered this year. Mr. Mulholland said they are asking the committee to consider reapportioning the full amount that they had already pre-approved. Mr. Mulholland introduced Dave Lawrence, President, Arts Council of Indianapolis. Mr. Lawrence reviewed a hand-out attached as **Exhibit A**. He said he would like to review reapportioning the funds from the city since some funds from the Capital Improvement Board (CIB) have been suspended indefinitely. He said the first column is the 2008 original award from the City and CIB, the second column is the 2009 original award with reductions, and the third column is the proposed new 2009 final allocations. He said in most cases, some organizations' entire grant allocations came from the city, and each organization is taking between a 50% to 60% reduction in funding of their 2008 grant award. He said the Arts Council strongly felt that every organization should participate in the reduction process. He said the larger organizations took a 60% reduction, and the smaller organizations took a 50% reduction.

Mr. Lawrence said in most cases the new recommended amount is much lower than the amount that was presented to the committee earlier this spring, and the only changes are that the organizations received their funding from the city and the CIB. He said in past years, the organizations with strong tourism opportunities have received the majority of their funding from the CIB, but those funds are frozen. Mr. Lawrence said they have eliminated and, in some cases, reduced those grants to get them into the city's allocation. He said there are three new organizations which need approval that were previously a part of the CIB allocation. Those organizations are the Indiana State Museum, the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indiana Zoological Society. Mr. Lawrence said he wanted to point out that information because he knows the committee will mostly compare this proposed allocation to the one that was previously approved.

Councillor McQuillen asked what the most recent administrative costs were for the Arts Council in the last year. Mr. Lawrence said the administration's budget is approximately \$5.5 million, and, up until last year, \$2.5 million was straight pass-through and grants, and the administrative costs to this program was \$37,000. He said that it is about a 20% reduction in comparison to two or three years ago. He said the overall administrative cost for the organization is about 8% of the total budget. Councillor McQuillen asked Mr. Lawrence for the total number of staff members. Mr. Lawrence said they have 15 full-time employees, and three part-time employees. Councillor McQuillen asked if any of the Art Council's board members are also on the staffs of the fifty organizations that were previously receiving tax dollars. Mr. Lawrence answered in the affirmative. Councillor McQuillen asked if there has ever been a conflict of interest for those individuals. Mr. Lawrence said the staff is required to complete a very specific conflict of interest statement that each board member signs at the beginning of each year, and that statement is updated every year. He said those members indicate what organizations they are serving on, and they do not vote on those particular boards or participate in any discussions concerning those organizations or their grants.

Councillor McQuillen asked if the organization's financial need is a criteria that determines how much each organization receives in grants. Mr. Lawrence said in the original application process, need was not a criteria. It is based on four different criteria; those needs include the artistic strength of the organization, the administration and governance of the organization, the organization's outreach and community involvement, and their arts education initiatives. Councillor McQuillen asked if financial need has ever been considered when issuing these grants. Mr. Lawrence answered in the affirmative. He said they do consider financial need especially in the case of smaller organizations. He said because of the requirements that are put forth, and because public tax dollars are being used, they want to make sure the organizations are carrying out their programs and services to the best of their ability. He said that some of the smaller organizations sometimes have problems meeting all of the requirements.

Councillor McQuillen said he is trying to rationalize why organizations such as the Children's Museum and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra are getting \$100,000 in funding, whereas small organizations such as Indy Baroque or Footlite Musicals are getting a very small amount of funding. Mr. Lawrence said the larger organizations have had their endowment funding reduced, and have experienced 10% to 15% cutbacks also. He said some of the larger organizations have cut back on programs, closed galleries, and reduced the educational offerings that they have provided in the past. Mr. Lawrence said the need is out there for all organizations, big and small.

Councillor Speedy asked Mr. Lawrence what criteria he used to make the decisions for re-allocating funds. Mr. Lawrence said up until this year, they had used a panel of out-of-state arts professionals that have a lot of experience with grant approvals. He said although they are not using that panel anymore due to cost-saving measures, they are still using the same criteria that the panel used in to approve grants.

Mr. Mulholland said they reviewed 2008 funding levels to determine what the starting levels should be for 2009, and then they considered a 50% to 60% reduction to determine what their budget should be.

Councillor Oliver asked if any organizations have been dropped or added because of these changes. Mr. Lawrence said there have been no new additions other than the three organizations that he mentioned earlier, which were the Indiana State Museum, the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indiana Zoological Society. He said there are no new organizations on this list or the one that was submitted this spring. Mr. Lawrence said some new organizations applied for funding in 2008 because there were new categories added for non-arts organizations that were offering art specific projects such as the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), and the Boys and Girls Club. Because of reductions, categories had to be eliminated, and that is how some new groups were added. He said they have not added any new groups for 2009.

Councillor Speedy moved, seconded by Councillor McHenry, to send Proposal No. 234, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation.

Ben Wissell, citizen, asked what will stop an artist from making something that is considered offensive or inappropriate if this money is granted. He said this could cause a public outcry, and the government cannot limit what artists create. He said if the Council passes this proposal, this could put them in a conundrum. Mr. Wissell suggested purchasing still art, instead of just blindly throwing the money at art. He said that will allow taxpayers to see the art that is being produced, and there are no infringements on the first amendment, and it will not give in to propaganda. Mr. Lawrence said that he would like to clarify that these funds are being used for arts outreach, and arts education initiatives such as

after-school programs in facility arts learning experiences, and community outreach such as free concerts. He said none of these dollars are used to fund individual artists, but they all go to arts organizations.

Mr. Mulholland said the public funding is not funding any of the staff's salaries. Those dollars are all privately raised through foundation and corporate contributions. Mr. Lawrence said when each organization accepts the grant funding, they have stipulations that they must abide by, and the Arts Council splits the payments to make sure that each organization does what they said they will do. They monitor their activity and their arts offerings very closely.

Councillor McQuillen asked Mr. Lawrence on what kind of community outreach activities do organizations such as the ShadowApe Theatre Company and the Phoenix Theatre spend tax dollars. Mr. Lawrence said that he would have to review their contributions. He said that the ShadowApe Theatre has after-performance discussions with the actors and Director after their presentations, and sponsors life-long learning activities such as backstage tours. He said in the past, the Phoenix Theatre has offered free tickets to second-stage productions for schools and has provided a free night of theatre to help offset ticket costs. Mr. Lawrence said all of these are educational activities.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully admitted,

Susie Day, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

SD/cj

Exhibit A

Arts Council of Indianapolis
2009 Annual Grants Program

Organization Name	2008	2009	Proposed New 2009 Final Allocation
	Original AWARD (City +CIB)	Original Award w/ Reduction (City +CIB)	
American Cabaret Theatre	\$5,000	\$3,750	\$2,500
American Pianists Association	\$48,000	\$36,000	\$24,000
Art With a Heart, Inc.	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$5,000
Asante Children's Theatre	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$2,500
Children's Museum of Indianapolis	\$241,000	\$180,750	(\$20K City, \$160,750 CIB) \$100,000
Children's Theatre Institute, Inc.	\$9,000	\$7,200	\$4,500
Clowes Memorial Hall	\$41,000	\$30,750	\$18,450
Dance Kaleidoscope, Inc.	\$56,000	\$42,000	\$28,000
Eiteljorg Museum	\$142,000	\$106,500	(\$36K City, \$70,500 CIB) \$63,900
Encore Vocal Arts	\$10,000	\$8,500	\$5,000
Festival Music Society	\$7,000	\$5,950	\$3,500
Fine Arts Society of Indianapolis	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$2,500
Footlite Musicals, Inc.	\$4,000	\$3,200	\$2,000
Freetown Village, Inc.	\$40,500	\$34,425	\$20,250
Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre	\$16,000	\$13,600	\$8,000
Harrison Center for the Arts	\$12,000	\$9,600	\$6,000
Heartland Truly Moving Pictures	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$9,000
Indiana Historical Society	\$13,000	\$9,750	(\$9,750 CIB) \$5,850
Indiana Repertory Theatre	\$142,000	\$106,500	(\$36K City, \$70,500 CIB) \$63,900
Indiana State Museum Foundation	\$61,000	\$45,750	(\$45,750 CIB) \$27,450
Indianapolis Arts Center	\$88,000	\$66,000	\$39,600
Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra	\$44,000	\$35,200	\$22,000
Indianapolis Children's Choir	\$35,000	\$26,250	\$17,500
Indianapolis Civic Theatre	\$49,000	\$36,750	\$22,050
Indianapolis Museum of Art	\$160,000	\$120,000	(\$20K City, \$100K CIB) \$72,000
Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art	\$9,000	\$7,200	\$4,500
Indianapolis Opera	\$71,000	\$53,250	\$31,950
Indianapolis Symphonic Band, Inc.	\$9,000	\$7,650	\$4,500
Indianapolis Symphonic Choir	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$12,500
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra	\$251,000	\$188,250	(\$20K City, \$168,250 CIB) \$100,000
Indianapolis Theatre Fringe Festival	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$5,000
Indianapolis Zoo	\$40,000	\$20,000	(\$20k CIB) \$18,000
IndyBaroque	\$2,000	\$1,700	\$1,000
IndyChoruses	\$3,000	\$2,550	\$1,500
InterAction Theatre, Inc.	\$8,000	\$6,800	\$4,000
International Violin Competition	\$50,000	\$40,000	\$25,000
Madame Walker Theatre Center	\$15,500	\$12,400	\$7,750
Motus Dance Theatre	\$5,000	\$4,250	\$2,500
Music for All, Inc.	\$35,500	\$26,625	\$16,000
New World Youth Orchestras	\$8,000	\$6,800	\$4,000

Arts Council of Indianapolis
2009 Annual Grants Program

Organization Name	2008	2009	Proposed New 2009 Final Allocation
	Original AWARD (City +CIB)	Original Award w/ Reduction (City +CIB)	
Orkestra Projekt	\$2,000	\$1,700	\$1,000
Philharmonic Orchestra of Indpls	\$16,000	\$13,600	\$8,000
Phillips Music Guild	\$2,500	\$2,125	\$1,250
Phoenix Theatre	\$61,000	\$48,800	\$30,500
President Benjamin Harrison Foundation	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$2,500
Primary Colours	\$7,000	\$5,950	\$3,500
Ronen Chamber Ensemble	\$5,000	\$4,250	\$2,500
ShadowApe Theatre Company	\$4,000	\$3,400	\$2,000
Storytelling Arts of Indiana	\$31,000	\$26,350	\$15,500
Summer Stock Stage	\$3,000	\$2,550	\$1,500
Urban Arts Consortium	\$6,500	\$5,525	\$3,250
VSA arts of Indiana	\$52,000	\$39,000	\$26,000
WFYI Teleplex	\$46,000	\$34,500	\$20,700
Writers' Center	\$6,500	\$5,525	\$3,250
Young Audiences of Indiana	\$62,000	\$46,500	\$27,900
Totals:	\$2,115,000	\$1,608,675	\$963,000