

A meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Lori Nolan at 6:32 pm on December 8, 2009 at our recreation building located in Ventnor Heights at Surrey & Balfour Avenues in accordance with the sunshine law

Present: Lori Nolan, Bart Beck, Diane Birkbeck, John Gallagher, Jan Sarnese, Commissioner Weintrob

Guests were:  
Michael Weissen  
Sue VanDuyne  
Kirsten Canuso  
Michelle Locke  
Sandy Josephs  
Tim Kreisler

Special Events App: Mike Weissen was present to discuss the City's Polar Bear Plunge that the Ventnor Merchants runs for the recreation department. Jan 1, 2010 at 1pm is the date at Newport Ave/New Haven beaches. They will have a chili cook off again. Motion was made to adopt application by Diane Birkbeck and seconded by Lori Nolan, all were in favor. Mr. Weissen did mention that he will go in front of the Commission for approval as he has done in past years.

Commissioner Weintrob did an introduction to why some of Cultural Arts Board members were present at tonight's rec board meeting. He stated that both areas are under his leadership and he would like a more cohesive environment. Since the city lost the score program he wants to be able offer programs after school. The sports program could run by themselves but that the arts & crafts could possibly merge.

The cultural arts offers now a 6 week program, days a week from 9 am until noon, they have ceramics, jewelry making, gymnastics, theatre and dance.

Question brought up was who would be in charge of organizing the teachers, classes, schedule, etc. Victoria Clark and Jerry Thomas will need to get together to discuss all these things.

Sue VanDuyne stated that sometimes they can get grants.  
Commissioner Weintrob stated that the city has a grant writer and that they can look into that area for the city.

Commissioner Weintrob stated that it is a 70/30 split for cultural arts. Teachers get 70% of the registration fees and then cultural arts get the 30%.

Transportation is also an issue about having the programs at the cultural arts building, possibly have them at the school. Both directors will have to meet as well as the school to discuss all options.

Cultural Arts board members leave. Vice Chairman Nolan directed a question to Comm. Weintrob about a "rumor" she has heard about Director Thomas's position. She stated that she has heard that Comm. Weintrob and the City want to make Director Thomas's position part time. Comm. Weintrob stated that he has had no meetings with anyone in reference to cutting Mr. Thomas position to p/t. Comm. Weintrob also stated that he and the city do not want to give up anything they want to make it better. The only way any cuts would happen is due to the budget being cut.

Comm. Weintrob stated that his goal is to keep things the way they are or make them better.

Comm. Weintrob wanted board members to have the projected budget, thought they had gotten it already. He will get it to them before January's meeting.

A motion was made to look into the feasibility of combining the Cultural Arts program with the arts and craft program the city runs by John Gallagher and seconded by Bart Beck. All were in favor.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by Jan Sarnese and Seconded by Diane Birkbeck

See everyone next year, Happy Holidays to all.