



## **15 in 5 PLAY Task Force**

### **FAR (Fields, Aquatic, Recreation) Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

*March 21, 2006  
Ambroz Recreation Center  
7:30-8:30 am*

#### **Meeting Business**

Meeting called to order at 7:35 A.M. by chairman Alan Bernard at the Ambroz Recreation Center.

Subcommittee secretary Judy Fitzgibbons asked to be replaced because she is unable to stay for the entire meetings. Ron Gonder "was volunteered" to be subcommittee secretary.

The discussion from the meeting of 3-7-06 was continued about Goal #4 Field Sports Complex. Julie Sina put up a map of the Tuma Soccer Complex, which indicated the surrounding unused city owned land. There is about 200 acres total unused land divided in two parcels, one north and one south of County Home Road. Joy Long gave a report on the recent Eastern Iowa Positive Sports baseball and softball coaches meeting where she presented the information about the PLAY Taskforce as it involved a Field Sports Complex. John Taylor the president of Positive Sports will work on putting together costs for an 8 diamond complex and will attend a future meeting of this subcommittee to present that. Long noted that there are 130 teams covered in the Positive Sports organization which includes teams from Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and the surrounding area. It was noted that Hitters Park is not going to be open this season, which will have a strong impact on field availabilities throughout the area.

Discussion was taken up on Goal #3 Aquatic Center. Jim Voss gathered information from aquatic centers in Marshalltown, IA and Lawrence, KS and made up a list of things that an aquatic center should have. This page of information is attached to these minutes. Julie Sina passed out an article on aquatic centers that had information she thought the subcommittee should have. A related discussion was held about the costs and the funds brought in by aquatic centers. It was noted that almost all, as is the case for the Bender Pool in Cedar Rapids, lose money but all communities which have

aquatic centers are willing to spend needed city funds for the community benefit of having such a facility.

A discussion was held about three different seminars that are being offered this spring and summer in Colorado, Missouri and Florida on planning, funding and implementing community recreation projects. The question was raised about whether this subcommittee should have a person or persons from it attend one of these seminars to gather this information and how the expenses of such attendance might be funded. Alan Bernard, Julie Sina and Kim Hilby volunteered to serve on a committee to look into those two issues and report back at the next meeting.

Jim Voss reported that he followed up the discussion from the meeting of 3-7-06 about the sport of rugby and what its needs might be with regard to fields by talking to someone connected with the rugby community in Cedar Rapids. This person indicated that a minimum of 5 rugby fields was needed to hold tournaments or attract outside competitions. It was noted that successful rugby areas also had camping available nearby for those participating in the competitions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 A.M.

Members present:

**Past participating members present:** Alan Bernard, Ron Gonder, Kim Hilby, Julie Sina, Judy Fitzgibbons, Tom Saxen, Joy Long, and Tom DeBoom

**New members present:** Joe McGillicuddy and Phil Barnes

**Guests present:** Amy Klinker and Marcia Sisk

Next Subcommittee Meeting: Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 A.M. at the Ambroz Recreation Center.