

NORTH ROYALTON RECREATION BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY August 6th, 2009

Meeting called to order by R. Wells at 7:02p.m.

In attendance: Ed Swim, Russ Wells, Todd Althouse, Larry Antoskiewicz, and Heidi Dolezal

Russ turned meeting over to Council Representative, Larry Antoskiewicz.

Kriste Smith (NR Community YMCA liaison) introduced YMCA representatives present:

Jody Shy, Campaign Coordinator

Gary Guzy, Executive Director

John Cardone, District Vice President

Glenn Haley, President/ Chief Executive Officer

She discussed the benefits of a YMCA in North Royalton for each age group: Seniors, 35-55, 20-30, teens and pre-teens. She also discussed the added/combined sports programs that a YMCA would bring to NR.

Glenn Haley (YMCA President/ Chief Executive Officer): Started by thanking community leaders for the opportunity. He elaborated on how the YMCA is a community collaborative partner and do not duplicate existing city recreation programs. He talked about the economic benefits a YMCA brings to a community. He also discussed recent joint YMCA/City projects in Geauga, Lakewood and Avon. It is very important that both NR City and Residents are onboard with a project before the YMCA starts fundraising in North Royalton. **Vince Gentile** (Council President) asked Glen about how much community support would be needed. Glenn said the Y will try to keep debt low, do a lot of fundraising and added that the city does not need pass a levy to cover the YMCA operating costs or deficits. The Y takes care of all its own operating costs. **Mike Farrell** (Ward 4 councilman) wanted to know how the Y plans to raise the money. Glenn said they will need 4-5 committed people from the community to lead the fundraising efforts. We will need to raise about 70-80% of goal before groundbreaking in 24 months or sooner to take advantage of recent lower construction rates. **Dan Kasaris** (Ward 6 councilman) asked how YMCA operating costs are funded. Membership dues (\$38/mo individual and \$51/mo family on average) fund all YMCA operating costs. **Russ Wells** asked about how much government support would be needed. **Tom Jordan** (City Economic Director) said that new tax revenues may be needed, but felt most or all would come from new businesses that would grow around YMCA. He added that Federal or State funds would be difficult to get. **Mike Farrell** asked if the YMCA had a proposed design yet. Glenn answered not yet, it depends on how much money is raised. **Todd Althouse** asked if Ridgewood YMCA would close. Glenn answered that Ridgewood would remain open. **Vince G.** asked who residents should contact, if they want to become more involved. Glenn said that Residents should contact Jody Shy or Christe Smith.

Vince G. added that this is a unique opportunity for NR and we should take advantage of it.

Dan K. said that times are now from when he opposed are recreation center in North Royalton. He added that a joint venture with the YMCA looks like a great opportunity.

Larry A. added that there is a lot of enthusiasm this in the Administration to bring a YMCA to NR.

A **NR Resident** added that it is important that the Administration is behind this to make sure it gets done

Todd A. motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:09 pm, Larry A. 2nd - motion carried

Next meeting will be September 29th, 2009 @ 6:00pm.