

**DOVER RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**April 10, 2006**

**I. Call To Order:** Bob Carrier called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Present:** Gary Bannon, Bob Carrier, Rich Thorpe, Pete Michel, John Sibik, Joe Tenuta  
Bob Keays – City Council Representative. Also present were Sam, Katie, Emily, and  
Colin (students from UNH)  
Mark Hyson entered the meeting at 7:20 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes for March 13, 2005:** Bob Carrier made a motion to accept the March 13, 2006 minutes. Rich Thorpe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Citizens Forum:** There was no Citizen's Forum this evening.

**IV. Reports:**

**Advisory Board:** Rich Thorpe spoke about the Dover Little Green Board meeting that he attended.

Brian Zabkar has completed our first coaches re-training program.

**Recreation Director:** Lydia Williams is finishing up the summer brochure and it will be mailed out next week.

The budget is being handed into the City Council on Wednesday night. A 2.4 % increase is being asked for. However, it was reduced to a -.2% by the City Manager. This year we are putting in more money into the special revenue fund from the general fund. The cost of the move to the McConnell center is not part of the General Fund budget it is in the CIP.

The Easter Egg Hunt was held at Bellamy Park on April 8. There were approximately 100 kids plus parents in attendance.

The Dover Indoor Pool hosted the NH Special Olympics swim meet on April 8. Half of the events are at the Portsmouth Indoor Pool and half here in Dover. The event went very well.

Doug Steele from Dover Community Services, Gary Bannon, and members of the Dover Youth Softball League and the Dover Soccer Association, met at Shaw's Lane for a site visit. These groups talked about site issues and amenities that DYSL and DSA would like to see implemented. The main topic was a concession stand and bathroom building to be built. The city would build the shell of the building and the leagues would come in to help with the inside work. A price tag of \$100,000 was mentioned. There was talk about field maintenance and it was mentioned that the City is looking into hiring a private landscaping company to do field maintenance on the Shaws Lane fields.

Dover Youth Football and the Seacoast Titans football programs are both under the jurisdiction of the American Youth Football League now. There is talk that the two Dover based programs may merge into one organization in the future.

Gary Bannon stated that the new Recreation Advisory Board members were being voted on at the next City Council meeting. Rich Thorpe stated that he will try to get a hold of Dennis Ciotti to get the list of new members to us.

**V. Old Business:** Rich Thorpe and Mark Hyson spoke on the Code of Conduct that the Recreation Advisory Board is working on for the City Sports Leagues. They have gathered a number of different Codes of Conduct from other Recreation Departments. They will be putting something together very shortly to present to the board.

Gary met with the executive board from the Dover Senior Center and the seniors are being encouraged to be a part of the decision making process on the senior area at the McConnell Center. The Senior Programming Advisory Committee toured other facilities in the area to see how they have developed senior programs.

The McConnell Center project is ahead of schedule by two weeks and is under budget. Labor Day is the projected date for the building to be ready for the Recreation Department to move there. The total price tag on the project is at 5.1 million dollars. The money is bonded and will be paid back by the tenants rent over a period of years.

There was a sub-committee meeting on the Recreation Advisory Board By-Laws held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The board went over the by-laws and will get to Gary when it is ready.

**VI. New Business:** The site at Hancock Park is now cleared and the perimeter fence is up. The bulk of the Work is slated to be done by the late summer or early fall. There is \$107,000 left in the budget. The total cost of the project is budgeted at \$145,000. The playground equipment will cost approximately \$30,000. If residents still want their own private gate to enter the park it will cost approximately \$250 per gate.

Bob Carrier spoke on signage for all the City Parks, so that the signage would be consistent from park to park.

May 6<sup>th</sup> was the date that was set to clean up the Recreation Adopt-A-Spot at Butterfield Gym.

Joe Tenuta asked about Longhill Park. Gary Bannon stated that the field is not in good shape. Parking continues to be a problem. Gary is meeting with the Janco Company that abuts the field to see if we can use their parking lot and secure it for the use of the field/park. Currently there are no activities that are being scheduled for the field in the park

**VII. Adjourn:** Joe Tenuta made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Hyson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully Sumbmitted,

Mark Hyson