



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, 61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820
Room 220
Meeting Date: Monday, March 8, 2010
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER: Joe Tenuta called the meeting to order at 7:01PM

ROLL CALL

Present

Recreation Director: Gary Bannon

City Council Liaison: Bob Carrier

Recreation Board Members in attendance:

Joe Tenuta

Mark Hyson

Jerry Newcomb

Jon Towle

Kathy Morrison

Rich Johnson

Jeff Canfield

Suzanne Meadows

Recreation Board Members absent:

Assistant Recreation Director: Krista Trefethen (on vacation)

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: February 8th, 2010 minutes

Mark Hyson made a motion to approve the February 8th, 2010 minutes.

Jeff Canfield seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

CITIZENS' FORUM: A student from UNH attended the meeting, presumably for course credit. Ellen from Dover was I believe her name. There was no other citizen's forum.

REPORTS

A. ADVISORY BOARD

Jerry sent the home addresses (two different home addresses) of the Nesman family to Gary in order for Gary to send the invitations to the Heyliger event.

Suzanne attended a meeting of the Willand Pond Group up at Strafford Farms. This is a citizens group that meets from time to time. They are trying to put together some sort of fishing derby. The next meeting is on Thursday March 18th at 6pm at Strafford Farms.

Peter and Cathy Allen have been very involved with Willand Pond. High Water level has



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brought neighbors together to do something about Willand Pond. Norma Williard is the central contact person presently. They are talking about having a cleanup day on April 24th. Gary is attending a meeting on March 18th with some city of Somersworth officials.

Suzanne reported that Rails and Trails meeting will be on Tuesday March 9th which Suzanne will be attending over at City Hall. Bruce Woodruff is organizing the meeting. Suzanne will update the Rec Board at the next meeting.

Joe mentioned that the McConnell Advisory Board is still working to keep the Children's Center at the McConnell Center. Apparently, now that the significant subsidy they have had was reduced as dictated by their contract, it is putting the Children's Center into financial difficulty. On a separate note, security cameras are going to be installed at the McConnell Center. A total of 14 total cameras are going to be used. There was a major act of vandalism last year that resulted in thousands of gallons of water being emptied into the building.

B. RECREATION DIRECTOR, GARY BANNON

1. Gary working on the FY 11 Recreation Department budget presently. Approximately 10% of budget has been cut over the last two years. Going through programs reviewing which ones are breaking even, making money, or losing money help determine what we can continue to provide. Looking for ways to consolidate and find ways to cut costs. Very difficult. Is going to consolidate two summer camps into one. Camp Cool and Camp Sun and Fun will combine into one Camp Cool camp. Camp Sun and Fun building had a pipe burst with some significant damage.

Also, with a 0% budget that has to be submitted by City Manager in order to be in compliance with tax cap, there may be more cuts coming. The indoor and outdoor pool is being reviewed for possible closure as the City will propose to save the \$360,000 shortfall (expenses for pool exceeding revenues).

If the pools are closed then the money that was designated for the bathhouse from the gravel fund could also be re-appropriated by the City Council. Gravel fund generates roughly \$125,000 to \$200,000per year in revenue.



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All of the programs are looked at in terms of Revenues - Expenses = profit, break even, or loss. How much is the cost to the taxpayer for everything that the city operates.

The city needs to find millions of dollars in cuts in order to meet the requirements of the tax cap so everything is being looked at closely.

The City Council may have to re-appropriate funds based on what the needs of the city are at any particular point in time. For example, using gravel money in 2009 to cover a shortfall of hundreds of thousands of dollars in the 2009 budget.

C. ASSISTANT RECREATION DIRECTOR, KRISTA TREFETHEN (presented by Gary in Krista's absence)

1. Basketball is finishing up. Good season
2. Little Kickers program starting in March. Its run by Lindsay Conway.
3. Field requests are coming in. Waiting for schedules from Peter Wotten. Peter has to wait for schedules from NHIAA.
4. Longhill Park - there are multiple requests to use this field from different sports organizations. Gary to review what can be done with the field since the dog park is also going into Longhill.

There are 9 Recreation Advisory Board Positions along with 2 Alternate positions. Presently the 9 members are filled by:

Joe Tenuta - Mark Hyson - Jerry Newcomb - Jon Towle - Jeff Canfield - Rich Johnson - Kathleen Morrison.

Open

Open

Alternate members are filled by:

Suzanne Meadows

Open

OLD BUSINESS

1. Dog Park - To be located in Long Hill Park. Size is projected to be 160 feet wide by 200 feet deep at the side furthest away from the parking lot. There is room to add if needed. Area will be split out between the big dogs and small dogs. Funds are available from monies that went through the Planning Department for park improvements from new north end developments. Middleton has been very supportive about offering parking. Some wood chips have been put down from the brush that was cut down by the boy scouts. The fence is going to cost less than they thought, about \$8,000, its going to be 5 foot high. The abutters have been notified, only one



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abutter that had some concerns that are being addressed. There was a meeting with the abutter who was concerned about the dog park. The concerns and questions were addressed. Goal to open park is late spring early summer 2010. Gary working with Community Services and Planning Departments to keep dog park project moving forward. **Rec Board reviewed the final layout for the dog park and voted unanimously to support it with the caveat that signage be put up to keep the dogs off of the Longhill park playing fields.**

2. Awards Program & Donation Letters- The awards dinner is to be held on Thursday March 25th, 2010. There is roughly between 85-95 people that attend each year. Gary met with the Moose and the Moose are very willing to put on the dinner so it's going to happen at the Moose this year. Gary to look at having a special recognition plaque in Greg's honor to be given to Nesman family at awards program. **Money is starting to come in from letters to help pay for Heyliger trophies, plaques, invitations, etc. Gary is going to get there at 5:30pm - he asked that board members get there early to greet folks, help, etc. Trying to finalize how many people from each organization will be coming.**

3. Dog Signs - Gary to follow up with Sharon Lucey to see when the signs will get posted at the parks. Gary is following up on working on getting the specific language for signage for Shaw's Lane and Woodman Park. Gary working on fine tuning the dog signs, some are not posted in the best locations. Still no signs up at Shaw's Lane where the dogs are still out and about on the fields. Gary to continue to follow up on signs. Still working on language and location of signs with city. Leagues may need to contribute to cost of signs. Gary will contact leagues if he decides he needs leagues to contribute to help cover cost. Gary had a list of parks and signs for parks at the meeting, just need to get the signs put in, waiting for ground to thaw.

4. Padding for Butterfield Gym - Gary and Krista are following up on getting some padding for behind the baskets at the Butterfield Gym. Krista working to finalize order on padding/mats and get them installed.

5. MOU - Released to leagues at Presidents meeting for review to leagues. Waiting on league feedback. Dover Football is going to vote on it this week. Softball has their meeting coming up. Both Dover Baseball and Dover Soccer voted on and passed it. The leagues need a template so that everyone is turning in something similar to the city. Mark Hyson to work on and distribute a template to leagues.



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6. Park Street Park Project - Rotary has been out actively fundraising to help raise funds for the park. Three park concepts were presented at meeting; project is continuing to move forward. Working though budget, concepts, and timelines. Meeting with Norm Francassa again this week. Gary is following up with Norm and Doug Steele to see when they can start doing some prep work. Norm, Bob, and Marion Cheney (Rotary) have met to finalize some items, get some equipment ordered and start to plan a kickoff event. May start to ask local businesses if they were interested in donating a bench, tree, etc. Satellite donations to help beautify the park but funding it privately.

7. City Council Resolution to create a Recreation Department Capital Reserve Account - Bob Carrier mentioned that he and Jan Nedelka are going to be sponsoring a resolution to the City Council to fund a Recreation Department Repair Account for the recreation department to properly maintain and repair the city playground equipment. The amount that was going to be put forth in front of the council is around \$15,000 per year that could be funded from the gravel fund. Another way to help fund this is to add a \$1 to the special revenue fund charge and this specific \$1 would go into this Recreation Department Repair Account. The goal is to have some funds to keep the playgrounds in good working order and safe for the kids to play on. The Recreation Advisory Board liked the idea of setting up this account and then having Rec Board members go out and look at the parks and report back on what playground equipment is in need of repair. Resolution going before city council in February. This did get voted on and passed by the city council in February 2010. Now it needs to be funded. Trying to get \$5,000 - \$10,000 appropriated from gravel fund per year put into this account. Also looking at adding \$1 to the special revenue fund in order to fund this account.

8. By-Laws Revision to address attendance - Board agreed to amend by-laws to deal with absenteeism. Jerry will send out revised by-law language for board review (sent on 2-10-10). Board members asked to provide feedback by March 1st. Board to review at March meeting. Once board agrees on language then Gary will then forward to Allan Krans for review. There was a suggestion that each member sign an agreement that you agree to meet the attendance policies and if not resign or be subject to removal from the board by the board members. Gary to take everyone's input, clean it up and then get it over to Allan Krans to review.

F. ADJOURN

Jon Towle made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Jeff Canfield seconded the motion.



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The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:04pm
Respectfully submitted by,
Jerry Newcomb