



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, April 12, 2010
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER: Joe Tenuta called the meeting to order at 7:06PM

ROLL CALL

Present

Recreation Director: Gary Bannon
Assistant Recreation Director: Krista Trefethen
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: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: March 8th, 2010 minutes
Jon Towle made a motion to approve the March 8th, 2010 minutes.
Mark Hyson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

CITIZENS' FORUM: No Citizens forum.

REPORTS

A. ADVISORY BOARD

Mark Hyson reported that Softball is putting up a batting cage parallel to the 3rd base dugout.

Mark also reported that the one set of bleachers were vandalized over the winter and need to be repaired. Gary stated they are city property and the city (facilities) will send someone down there to look at it to see if it can be repaired.

Mark also stated that softball practices started today.

Jerry stated that the 3rd base dugout at Sullivan Field that was collapsing due to erosion and had been fixed with sand and plastic PVC lining to help support it for now may need a retaining wall or at least some rail road ties to hold it in place long term. It was



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suggested by Rich Johnson to maybe dig around the exterior of the dugout and put in some rail road ties to support it to prevent erosion in the future. Rich Johnson was one of the volunteers that worked on repairing the 3rd base dugout this past weekend.

Suzanne reported that Williland Pond is having a cleanup day on April 24th. A representative from the State of NH is testing the water at Williland and state should be forwarding those results. This representative will also be providing some training on site for anyone on the Williland Pond committee or for people that live on the pond so they can do some monitoring of the water for various assessments.

Suzanne reported that Rails and Trails are also having their clean up day on April 24th. Suzanne was unable to attend the rails and trails meeting but that she is being kept in the loop since she is getting the meeting minutes.

Kathy mentioned that there is an issue with the swing over at Park St Park.

Joe mentioned that Wayne Coolidge from Men's softball is willing to do some work up at Guppy Park. Softball would supply the materials and do the work, looking at putting in some dugouts. The likelihood of getting Guppy Park to have any real capital improvements from the City of Dover is unlikely in the near future so Wayne is going to go ahead and start planning to make any improvements so long as the City of Dover reviews and approves of the work being done. It would be a wise idea when Wayne is making the dugouts to make them in such a way that they could be removed and used again should the day ever arrive that the city has the money to invest in Guppy Park. Joe asked to find out how much is presently in the Men's softball SRF. The nice thing about these dugouts is that it would also provide some shade for the kids at Camp Cool for this summer.

B. RECREATION DIRECTOR, GARY BANNON

Gary attended a meeting with Somersworth officials and the Willand Pond committee regarding Willand Pond. The pond is presently 4 feet higher than it should be. Both Cities and the State are working to find a solution to get water levels lower so that the pond can start to be used for recreation purposes again.

Gary confirmed Camp Sun and Fun is being closed and children are going to attend Camp Kool so our programs will be more cost effective rather than running two similar programs. The goal is to have a fun camp kids can attend this summer while keeping costs down, it will be held at the Camp Kool site at the Ice Arena.



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Gary is working on the budget. Gary's budget presentation is May 5th. Public hearing is on May 26th.

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 due to \$371,000 support needed from the General Fund (expenses for pool exceeding revenues). We have a net cost to the General Fund for the Indoor Pool of \$314,000 and the Jenny Thompson Pool of \$57,000 for a total of \$371,000 for BOTH pools for FY09. As a comparison, Portsmouth's deficit for just their Indoor pool was @\$530,000.

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 \$200,000 per year in revenue.

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.

If the outdoor and indoor pools are closed it will also have an economic impact on the city, the revenue will be lost that swim meets bring in. The city is presently subsidizing the pools but the city is also receiving benefits from people spending their time and money in Dover during these outdoor meets. The city has to look at the pools as something they want to offer the community not something that can break even. The pools not only provide for swim meets but they also provide hydro fitness to seniors that cannot exercise outside, adults that do lap swim, physical therapy prescribed by doctors, Special Olympics events, etc. The pools have to be looked at in terms of what it provides to the community, it's much bigger than just Seacoast Swim and swim meets. Seacoast Swim does pay about \$80,000 per year to the city of Dover to use the pool. It costs \$100/hr to rent the pool. They do pay a fair amount to use the pool.

The comment was made by a Recreation board member that it seems that Recreation programs are being hit hard while there is no budget discussion from the Councilors or City Manager about cutting bigger ticket items like health care costs and retirement costs. It's understood there are unions and benefits but regarding insurance, it's presently an 80/20 split in Dover. In other towns, cities and states it's a 75/25 or 70/30 split on these costs. Regarding retirement, in the private sector, there are not many with pensions; it's mostly a 401 K with contributions from the employee and the company. Without fundamental changes in the insurance and retirement costs, Recreation, fire department, police, schools, etc, will continue to be cut and/or taxes will be increased.



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The Rec Board wants to keep the pools open and keep rec programs available to the community. Comments were made that the City Manager and City Councilors to find a way to do this and find other places to cut in the \$100MM budget. The rec board is supporting finding a way to keep the pools open and keep as many rec programs open as possible by finding other places to cut costs.

C. ASSISTANT RECREATION DIRECTOR, KRISTA TREFETHEN

1. Indoor soccer program finished up, it went well.
2. Fitness programs are starting up.
3. Fundraiser for Dover Senior Center with Pizzeria Uno's.
4. Field Scheduling - everything is in except for fall sports. All of the fields are all open. Still trying to chase down rosters and player fees. Krista is asking for help and detail about which organization is using the fields and when. The organizations are all booking the fields BUT there are days when the fields are not being used that the city wants to find out so that field maintenance can be done. Also, it will help to know when a field is available so that it can be used for charitable events. Also, if spring sports are playing in the fall then they have to pay another player fee to the city (spring baseball and fall ball is an example). Should be able to schedule field time for leagues at Longhill fairly soon.

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. Two open positions.

Alternate members are filled by:

Suzanne Meadows - One open position.

OLD BUSINESS

Dog Park - To be located in Long Hill Park. Size is projected to be 160 feet by 190 feet wide and about 210 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 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 to keep dog park project moving forward. Rec Board reviewed the final layout for the



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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. **Gary said the work at the park is progressing and they continue to make progress getting it ready for opening late spring/early summer.**

Awards Program & Donation Letters- The awards dinner was held on Thursday March 25th, 2010. The thank you letters were sent out to the sponsors. **Gary working on doing a nice plaque for the Moose and a letter to the editor for the Fosters to recognize the Moose.** Many Moose members took the day off from work to help prepare for the event. Gary and Joe did a great job running the event. Fundraising did well, raised about \$1,700 which more than covered our costs. The Heyliger's are still in the black!

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.**

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.**

MOU - Released to leagues at Presidents meeting for review to leagues. Waiting on league feedback. **Dover Football voted on and passed the MOU and code of conduct. Softball voted on and passed the MOU and code of conduct. 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 distributed a template for review. Board members asked to provide some feedback - Mark to send it out electronically for review.**

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 through 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



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funding it privately. **Getting ready to start some site work, Norm and Rotary are doing some more work and planning.**

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.

Reviewed Allan Krans feedback, Rec Board didn't like the 4 consecutive meetings language. We need something more generic like 33% of meetings in a calendar year which would make more sense for our board.

Nesman Memorial Tree and Plaque - Gary starting process for ideas. Rich Johnson to reach out to family if they have any preference on the tree they would like and try to finalize a date with the Nesman family, perhaps some time around Memorial Day.

F. ADJOURN

Mark Hyson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Suzanne Meadows seconded the motion.

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted by,
Jerry Newcomb