



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, 61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820
Senior Center Activity Room
Meeting Date: Monday, November 10, 2014
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Joe Tenuta @ 7:02pm

ROLL CALL:

Recreation Director: Gay Bannon
Assistant Recreation Director: Krista Trefethen

Recreation Board Members in Attendance:

City Council Liaison: John O'Connor
Joe Tenuta
Stanley Kaubris
Jerry Newcomb
Richard Johnson
Wayne Boucher
Scott Kelley
Jon Towle

Recreation Board Members Not in Attendance:

Norm Fracassa

Open Positions On Rec Board:

1 regular board member and 3 alternates – A full board consists of nine (9) full time members and three (3) alternate members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting were reviewed. There was no formal October, 2014 meeting held, as there was not a quorum in attendance at that meeting. Stan Kaubris motioned approval. Wayne Boucher seconded. Passed Unanimously

Comments occurred surrounding the lack of an October quorum. A request was made to the members to simply proactively communicate in advance, if any member will not be in attendance.

CITIZENS FORUM:

None No one in attendance

REPORTS:

Advisory Board Members:

None



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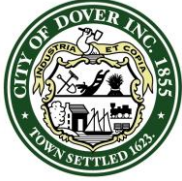
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Recreation Director Gary Bannon:

1. Budget: Gary trying to get the first cut of the budget in before the 2014 year-end holidays, instead of the first week of January. Never a good time to do so.
2. The CIP capital budget review already happened this Fall (two meetings so far). The Dover City Council is concentrating on big items. The Recreation Department CIP dollars are for the capital reserve balances for future initiatives (\$100,000). Any other big recreation-related dollars will most likely be pushed out to later years in the five-year plan, due to competing larger initiatives.
3. The Christmas Tree lighting is on December 5, 2014 at 6pm. The tree is already erected. The Dover Community Services Department went early this year. The tree is from Berwick, Maine.
4. Gary is applying for a Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) improvement grant (\$75,000). He is hiring a consultant to assist with the application, because of technical requirements and information volume. The application is due to be submitted by January 9, 2015. Developer impact fees on account in funds controlled by the Dover Planning Department will pay for the consultant. The grant funds would be used to pay for riverfront site clearing (on River Street), etc. Any grant funds must also be matched by city dollars or the value of in-kind services. Dover will match with 2015 in-kind services, such as work performed by the Dover Community Services Department. Examples of other activities these planned dollars will pay for include brushing clearing, riverside test borings, and a site elevation study (regarding riverfront development-versus-possible sea level height increases due to global warming).
5. Annual Heyliger Awards Program: Please start thinking about it. Letters will go out to city leagues in January, 2015 regarding award nominations. Ceremony will most likely be at The Dover Moose lodge on March 26, 2015.

Assistant Recreation Director Krista Trefethen:

1. Fitness Center activity is up.
2. Youth open gym activity is up.
3. Grade 5/6 basketball starts this weekend.
4. Middle School basketball starts 12/2/2014, and high school basketball starts 12/6/2014.
5. Men's League basketball started last Sunday, and it is completely full.
6. Fitness Center classes consistently full.
7. Senior Center lunches going well (Linda Jarvis and The Portable Panty often cooking).
8. Pickleball has started on Friday mornings. Creating two separate courts. Going great. They seem to add at least one new member each week. Four participants travelled all the way from Cape Neddick, ME after hearing about it. The instructor is seventy-five years-old, and doing great.



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9. Over 100 people travelled in October. Approximately 50 travelled to Washington, DC (slide show to be held by Linda Jarvis this Thursday). They also had successful trips to Austria/Bavaria, casinos, and a National Parks expedition.
10. Senior Center Membership numbers are up. Six new members today. There has been discussion about space getting tight, due to the increasing numbers. Gary discussed a potential full-time position to give quality service to seniors (Linda Jarvis is currently only fifteen hours per week). Krista has volunteer instructors for multiple activities (i.e., cards, German class, ukulele course, etc.), but they need a full-time coordinator who can also help market the services.
11. The Senior Center sees an average of 100 people a day (including the use of the Fitness Center). Folks also play bridge, do puzzles, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

Skate Park Update:

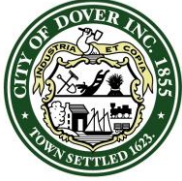
The new skate park ramps (under construction) are coming in to shape. The volunteer skate park group is doing a great job. The Community Services Department has all of the decking materials in their possession. The ramps can be dismantled in the future, if they ever need to be moved. The ramps will have fencing on top, to keep stray skateboards from entering the street. Approximately \$10K to \$11K of the \$20K budget allocated by the Dover City Council has been expended. \$1K of materials was ordered today, as well. Joe Tenuta asked if any surplus funds would stay available for future skate park use. Gary answered in the affirmative. Unspent funds will be available for future skate park use.

Henry Law Park Update:

Gary will be speaking again with major donors. The goal is to start the project in earnest in the Spring of 2015 ("Have to"). The donated gundalow boat will be moved to the park next year. The park will need to be fenced off, after the 'demolition' is completed. The gundalow will be kitty-cornered in to the park ("It's big": Dimensions of 70'X17' and fifty tons in weight). Moores Crane Rentals did a good job getting the boat out of the water and on to the dock. The gundalow was built with pegs. It is a flexible boat, currently sitting on River Street. Even with the introduction of the gundalow, 90% of the original park plans remain.

City Waterfront Update:

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) grant application process and plans previously mentioned, above. The city is moving aggressively. It wants a TIF for infrastructure and access points. A market study is being done regarding waterfront value, and its best use. Currently, there are viewpoints of involving multiple developers (instead of the single developer approach, which previously failed).



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Several key players are interested in the planned boathouse (i.e., private developers, UNH, "Row America", etc.). Gary is meeting with all of them.

There was an article about the UNH rowers in Fosters' Daily Democrat recently. Access via mud is not a good thing. They need a dock. A dock requires an application and state approval, etc. Maybe in the Spring of 2015.

Site plan for docks/access/possible dredging are ongoing.

The long-term goal is to draw folks to the waterfront.

Progress on The Bluffs may drive Skate Park to new location.

Possible sequence of events:

- 1- Riverbank restoration first, with erosion control added to increase friction/slow down river water speed.
- 2- Build park infrastructure.
- 3- Bluff development.

Stan Kaubris asked about the status of the envisioned aquatic center at Maglaras Fields. Gary responded the aquatic center group is asking for test boring permission, which they will pay for. Any borings results/reports will be shared with the City of Dover, and this information can only help to assist the city.

The aquatic center would be approximately 47,000 square feet. The group has to raise approximately \$7M up-front.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trails Grant:

Application mailed to Concord, NH today (November 10, 2014).

Requesting \$45,000 (maximum would have been \$50,000).

The grant is an 80/20 matching grant; 20% matching funds or in-kind service value.

Impacted area: North side of Garrison Hill trails and upgrade of sledding area.

Gary used Scott Kelley's original plan, plus a few new ideas.

There is a good possibility of getting the money.

The State of New Hampshire has \$1.2M available.

The \$1.2M must be split up in the following percentages, via grants: 30% motorized-related grants, 30% non-motorized grants, and 40% for mixed-use grants.

There were only three attendees at a 'non-motorized' informational session last month (which Gary attended).

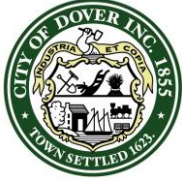
The Recreation Department will use the money to hire a summer work crew to do the improvements (i.e., one lead employee, plus two laborers).

Dover Community Services will also supply in-kind improvement efforts, to fulfill the required 20% 'match'.

Gundalow donation(s):

Donated funds are coming in. Attorney, David Bamford, is coordinating a lot.

\$14,850 raised so far, of which a lot will be used to pay for the crane rental, etc.



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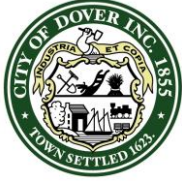
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Need approximately another \$12,000 to move it to Henry Law Park in 2015.
Local residents are volunteering to help maintain the Gundalow.
The boat cannot be a playground piece of equipment.
It needs to be separate, as an historical object and/or a stage.
Gary has a call later this week with a custom playground manufacturer. He will discuss the possibility of a playground boat for the kids to play on. This idea met with general approval.

Quarterly Meeting Discussions:

Gary raised the question of the Recreation Advisory Board only meeting quarterly. Should we continue to meet monthly?
Concern over attendance and quorums
Go to seven or eight meetings a year?
This led a good amount of back-and-forth discussion, as follows below.
Stan and Jon responded and advocated continuing the monthly meetings. Frequency is not an issue. They were concerned members might lose interest.
Jon made an observation that there is a difference between 'being advised' versus 'giving advice'.
Gary responded by saying that the Recreation Board has evolved/shifted from concentrating on town sports programs to a facilities-centric view.
Do the leagues run themselves better than years ago, so now we can concentrate on facilities?
Facilities (which are good to have) drive care issues (which we discuss).
But we are not advising. We are listening. The members' counsel is seldom sought.
A comment was made that the independent skate park group has done a wonderful job. "We supported them".
Jon Towle commented that maybe attendance has been driven down because the members are not offering any input?
Scott Kelley added that when he started with the Board, he expected that league representatives would address the Board. No one really addresses the Board.
Krista responded that the situation used to be the opposite. League leaders were also on the Recreation Advisory Board. Demographics/membership has changed. This is no longer the case.
Jerry commented that the pool of volunteers has shrunk, as well. There is a lot of work, but fewer people available for the Recreation Board.
Jerry posited the idea of having the city sport organizations forward their minutes via e-mail?
Stan then asked what incentive they would have in doing so.
Scott commented that the Recreation Board members are all here to help, because all the members bring experience and talents to the table.
Stan: Need to 'sell it' to the sport leagues.



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Jerry stated that the sports leagues are always looking for help. He not certain their members/leaders have the extra time to show up at Rec. Board.

Jon commented, that, four to five years ago, we were all on the sports league boards (echoing Krista's earlier statement).

Gary said that he feels Scott Kelley is correct. We're not reaching out to the sport leagues to know what is happening.

Jon had an example: Soccer versus Lacrosse, when it comes to field access/usage.

Lacrosse is growing rapidly. They already have space/field use issues.

Gary: "We don't want to work in a vacuum".

Richard reemphasized earlier points that the Board members consistently are not asked for their input (i.e., being advised versus giving advice).

We are looking for more proactive communication from Gary et al., concerning plans for 2015 through 2018.

Gary: Parks, programs, or both?

Joe: Circle back to league visits to the Board. Example: Player count projections, and field usage.

ADJOURN:

Scott Kelley motioned.

Stanly Kaubris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2014.

Adjourned at 8:47pm

Respectfully,
Richard Johnson