

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting
February 17, 2009
7:00 p.m. at Hooksett Library

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 PM. Present were Board Chairman Mike Horne, Joanne Burwell, Dave Elliott and Roger Hebert.

Minutes from the January 20, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Board members have all reviewed the Code of Ethics policy and signed the conduct affidavit. Mike forwarded three of them to Evelyn Horn in Town Office. Joanne turned hers in at Town Hall.

Dave Elliott shared that he had recently skated at the outdoor ice rink near the Court House (Riverside park). He reported the surface was rough and the ice had leaves melted into the surface, which caused the ice to be troublesome. It seemed the black surface of the pavement beneath the ice might be part of the problem. The Board will request the Recreation Dept. consider painting the rink pavement white to improve the quality of the ice (reflect vs. absorb solar gain). It also requests information on how frequently the surface of the rink is maintained (periodic spraying or flooding the ice surface with water by the Recreation Dept.).

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Recreation Facilities and Inventory: Mike Horne presented copies of the *Hooksett NH Recreation Facility and Land Inventory, Table 1*, one dated August 20, 2002 (Bruce Mayberry's report) and one updated January 17, 2009. He also presented a proposed update to the Hooksett Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan (2008-2012), dated February 17, 2009. The proposal had not been reviewed by the Recreation Dept. and didn't have Dale Hemon's input, though Dale is aware of the effort to update the inventory. The Board reviewed the documents in detail and agreed with the information presented. A motion was made, seconded, and the Board unanimously approved both updated documents. Board members were also unanimous in the decision to recommend to Town officials and applicable boards that there currently is no deficit in Hooksett's recreation infrastructure. Recreation impact fees can now be used for funding additional infrastructure efforts. Mike Horne stated the Board was asked to attend the Town Council March 11, 2009 meeting, to give an update on the Board's efforts. The three documents will be presented to Town Council at that time.
- 2) Recreation Department Report: Mike Horne reported he requested from the Recreation Dept. a status of on-going and/or new recreation programs, any issues with the same, and information on the FY10 budget. He emailed and left a phone message for Dale and Jodi. To date, he had not received a reply so the Board did not have that input to review. Joanne Burwell said she believed that Dale was away on vacation.

- 3) Mike Horne said the Board needs to renew efforts to get signage on the new hiking/biking/skiing trails (old Concord to Portsmouth Rail). Probably a sign at both at the Pleasant Street entrance and at the trailhead on Route 3. He shared he recently had been snow shoeing and cross country skiing and was pleased to see snowmobiles had not been using the trail, except for the east end near the Town Pond. The Board needs to follow-up on the letter requesting input from the Police Dept. on a proposed ordinance on unauthorized motorized vehicles on these trails.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Mike Horne updated the Board of his attendance on February 9, 2009 at the Manchester Regional Trails Alliance meeting. At this meeting information was shared by local community points of contact of neighboring communities' efforts in biking and hiking trails. Mike highlighted that he is also a member of Hooksett Kiwanis who are leading efforts in Hooksett in developing a master plan of trails. Coordination with neighboring towns helps ensure where possible trails will link and become part of a larger network.

- 2) Board members pointed out there has been a lot of youth recreation activity as announced in local media (Banner, Union Leader, etc.). And sign-ups for organized HYAA Spring sports programs. The Hooksett PTA has organizing many activities for students during the February vacation break.

The Board's March meeting (3rd Tues @ 7pm in library) was identified as a problem - probably not having a quorum of the Board due to conflicts in schedules by a couple of the board members. Mike Horne suggested shifting the meeting to March 11th after the Town Council meeting, seeing the P&R Advisory Board was providing the Council an update. It was unanimous to do that – and if a quorum is not present, the business of the night would be meeting with the Town Council.

There being no further meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Minutes by Mike Horne