

## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

### Minutes of Meeting

April 21, 2009

7:00 p.m. at Hooksett Library

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Board Chairman Mike Horne, Dave Elliott and Dale Hemeon. Visitor: Corri Wilson.

2. Minutes from the February 17, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

3. Mike recommended that the part of the minutes from the March 11, 2009 Town Council meeting when the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board briefed the council be posted as the March minutes for the Board. Motion made, seconded, and passed.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Recreation Department Report: A report from the Recreation Department was presented and reviewed. Included was the proposed FY2010 budget.

Highlights are as follow:

- Fun in the Sun: The program runs July 6 – August 21. This year the program will include children who will enter kindergarten in the fall.

- Town Hall gym (old Village School): Groups are now starting to use the facility. The Recreation Dept. has a policy and procedures in place. Fees include: 1) opening/closing fee of \$20 for non-profit groups, \$40 for profit groups; 2) a \$60 janitorial deposit is collected and returned if the gym is returned in same condition as when opened. The Recreation Dept. would like to gear the gym towards adult use as there are too few programs for them in Hooksett at present. Publicity of this has been run in local papers and on Town web site. Dale asked Board members to help get the word out to groups who might use this facility.

- Donati Park: A new top for the slide on the rocket ship should be received next week and installed.

- Future Programs: Dale and Jodi are considering new programs. One might be partnering with the Library next year for an Easter Egg hunt. Another is a Haunted House for Halloween.

B. Signs on Trails: Mike Horne said signs still have not been approved/installed on the new hiking/biking/skiing trails (old Concord to Portsmouth Rail). Need 3 signs: Pleasant Street entrance, the trailhead at parking lot on Route 3, and at the Town Pond at east end. Dale asked for details and a prototype of what is needed and he'll help get them approved and installed.

C. Regional Trail Alliance: Mike reported he attended the recent meeting of the Greater Manchester Trails Alliance. At these meetings information from neighboring towns is shared regarding their efforts in developing their trail

system, grants for construction and improvements, and coordinating efforts to connect trails as progress is made.

- D. Additional Land at Peter Brook: Dale will continue to research the possibility of acquiring the property contiguous to the Peter Brook soccer fields and selling off the property which was approved for a playground on Hackett Hill (near Corriveau Drive). The Board agreed that having a larger complex of sports fields centrally in town is desirable.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Dog Park: Neither Mike or Dale had been contacted the woman who was at the Town Council meeting on March 11, 2009 and asked for the Town to consider building a dog park. The Board discussed where in Town would be possible locations. One location would be at the north end of Lambert Park, closest to the hydro station. The construction of this new facility could be done using impact fees, now that the deficit was gone. The Board decided to move ahead and get approval from Town Council to build a dog park and to use impact funds. A public hearing will probably be required before final locations and plans are approved.
- B. Summer Concerts: Dale said he is considering running a three concert series this summer, holding them at Peter Brook Park. More information will be provided as he finalizes plans.
- C. Communications of Recreation Activities: The group discussed how the recreation activities and special events like concerts could be advertised better, especially now the Banner was going to every other week vs. weekly. Not everyone reads the newspaper or checks the Town web site often. One idea was to have three sign boards that could be located at main roads in town or moved as needed. Some merchants in town have volunteered to put notices on their sign boards from time to time (Merchant Motors, Mr. Bees, etc.).

There being no further meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes by Mike Horne