

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
October 15, 2009

Call to order: 7:02 pm

Present: Chairman Mike Horne, Dave Elliottt, Corri Wilson, Marty Lennon

Absent: Stuart Werksman, Dale Hemeon, Nancy Van Scoy

Announcements: We are looking for a qualified individual to fill the vacant seat on this board.

Correspondence: None

Public Input: None

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the September meeting were approved (D. Elliottt/M. Lennon 4-0-0).

Old Business:

1. M. Lennon reported back form the public hearing at the Town Council meeting.

Several people spoke, many against and some in favor of.

- Concerns included: rowing club activity being disrupted, a negative impact on the town's history, cost of building the park. Note: Cost comes from impact fees which may only be used for development of new infrastructure; the balance in the impact fees account as of June 30, 2009 is \$160,000 and will continue to grow as new homes continue to be built.

- Support included: Dale Hemeon explained how this site was formerly the town dump, (and once rink which has gone unused for some time), Councilor Dave Ross spoke in favor, M. Lennon spoke of the minimal anticipated impact to the town overall, and the great benefit to those who would use it.

- Jim Sullivan of the Historical Society asked for an apology because this was originally started without a public hearing. Apparently, the Town Council had voted on this some months ago contingent upon a public hearing but did not follow through. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was unaware of the contingency and M. Horne offered an apology on the Board's behalf for any confusion.

- According to M. Lennon, no action was taken by the Town Council; the Board awaits their vote.

- M. Horne will check with D. Hemeon on the status before the next meeting.

2. Advisory Board Personnel:

- The Town is still trying to fill the vacant position on this Board. C. Wilson will get the word out locally. Please let Evelyn Horn know if someone is interested.

- M. Horne is awaiting word on S. Werksman; we have not heard from him recently.

3. Website: Keep the pressure on. M. Lennon asked about status at the Town Council meeting. There is concern that the website is not being updated in a timely fashion; Evelyn can only do so much. Carol Granfield is working on this. Are there opportunities to bring in some help such as interns from local universities?

New Business:

1. D. Elliott brought up the idea of a seasonal ice rink with a suggestion to place it on the Farm baseball field next to the Town Hall. This would be a temporary structure. He will check with D. Hemeon about the possibility of installing this, and what the manpower situation is in terms of maintaining it throughout the season.

2. Note to M. Horne; remove ice rink (at site of pending dog park) from inventory.

3. Budgets due to Finance for November review with Town Administrator. M. Horne will check with D. Hemeon about the status of Parks & Rec proposed budget.

4. CIP due this month. M. Horne will check with D. Hemeon about the status of the proposed CIP budget. Current Capital Reserve is \$82,000. Traditionally, there is a warrant article to add \$10,000 to the reserve. In 2009, we did not propose a warrant article due to local economics. Will we propose one this year?

4. D. Elliott provided a sketch map of the Kiwanis Trail which indicates the trail markers. We would like to get this posted in the kiosk at the head of the trail. Not only is it informative, walkers can take a copy so they know where they are along the trail. Good for general information as well as safety. D. Elliott will get an official map from Joanne Duffy at Town Hall.

5. Old Home Day went well. Cold and windy but otherwise good weather. Good usage of facilities as activities expanded to previously unused fields. Unfortunately there was not enough notice to promote those activities which saw little traffic; a step in the right direction for next year. The fireworks were GREAT and were heard all over town. Note that the money for fireworks comes out of the Parks & Rec budget.

6. Reminder: Due to Right To Know laws, this and all Boards must not discuss things on email. Please bring any concerns, thoughts, issues etc. to the meetings.

7. It is now possible to reserve library meeting spaces by signing up at the library website.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Adjourn: 7:55 pm (C. Wilson, M. Lennon 4-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Corri L. Wilson

Board Secretary