

****Items to be placed on the RAB Agenda must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the preceding month****

MOULTONBOROUGH RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ADVISORY BOARD

Mission Statement

The mission of the Advisory Board to the Moultonborough Recreation Department is to provide the public a standard of excellence in programs and services in a cooperative spirit that encourages participation in recreation, sport and leisure activities, while carefully promoting and utilizing recreational resources and facilities available in the community.

Purpose

The principal function of the Advisory Board is to serve as a communication bridge between the Recreation Director, the Board of Selectmen and the Community and to promote programs and services to encourage support from our community through input and participation.

DRAFT MINUTES

July 11, 2011

Present: Morgen Gillis, Al Hume, Celeste Burns, Harry Blood, Carla Taylor.

Absent without Notice: Chris Shipp

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Al called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES of June 13, 2011: Carla asked to have the name changed in Section VI, 3rd Paragraph as Hilary made the initial statement regarding Cal Ripkin and not Carla. Celeste made the motion to approve the amended minutes, Harry seconded the Motion. Approved.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Michael Branley initiated the discussion by explaining the process and reasoning behind his work. He's looking at services provided, cost, and duplication as reasons for the merger. He's talking to stakeholders and others in the community to get varied opinions. He's meeting with Raymond and Portsmouth as well to get their perspective and to find out the benefits and challenges from someone that's done it. Carter wants him to look at what, if anything, should be changed. He will be emailing parents as well to get their perspective on who does what well. Al questioned whether there was a direct charge in writing from Carter and Mike responded that he will be working on some other projects as well but majority is on this project and this is the first direct charge. He's looking at programs not facilities. So far he has interviewed Mike and Andy, Donna and her staff and some others and expects to present his findings in mid-September to the school board and Selectboard. He has roughly 75 hours in and will end up with about 600. The list of people to interview started with what was in initial contract and the school board added to the

original list. Carla asked what Scott and Mike would know about programming. Mike explained that he asked both of them and Kay Parinelli about the business aspect of the two groups. He has already met with Harry as well and will do so again. He will spend a day shadowing Donna and spent a day with MRD staff. He explained that they're the ones who run the programs and he needs their input. Harry recommended that he meet with Matt Swedberg. Mike went on to say that he is still gathering information at this point. Morgen questioned the summer aspect; when the programming is so different from the school year and how is that tied in. Mike stated that it was definitely a full year study but summer is least controversial and smoothest running so will be looked at least. Celeste asked about the possibility of a public forum and Mike will bring it up with Carter. Mike volunteered that anyone can email him and it's on the website under administration. He's just making findings and not decisions.

The meeting then turned to Mike asking the Board questions and started with asking about the potential benefits of a merger. Harry started with staffing reductions perhaps. That's the only thing he can see. You wouldn't need 2 department heads but you would still need program people. On the athletic side Harry does everything himself. He makes repairs himself and asks only for assistance if need be. The process is different at the Rec. Dept. where they have 4 year round staff people. One person would be scheduling facilities so maybe less problems there. Right now Harry schedules then Donna gets the remaining space. MCS gets first dibs at their school. MA works around MCS gymnastics. Three days a week the athletic needs have to wait until 4:30. Youth kids get no practice if there's a snow day because there's no space for shifting once schedule is set in stone. Al then added that's why we need a new facility. Harry absolutely agreed.. When MA first opened up they added intramural programs as well because there was space but as MCS grew space dried up. Now they only have limited space available for April & May. Wintertime is when space get hammered. The only downtime for the MA gym is two weeks after school gets out to refinish the floors. Otherwise they're in use until 9:30 at night. Multiple uses started right after gym is reopened. MCS gym is not used in the summer as far as Harry knows. There's no flexibility from November to April until MA teams goes outside. Youth basketball players really get the short stick. Al suggested the townspeople needs to seed the demand for space. Harry agreed and added that combining the two departments doesn't really create any change for facilities. Scheduling may be simplified but that's it. Harry also stated that maybe the door was not closed to the possibility of some type of joint use with Tecumseh and the town could still negotiate with them for gym space.

Morgen questioned whether the two departments combine equipment orders. Harry explained that supplies are generally different; for example MRD has sponsors for shirts each season and MA orders uniforms for 5 year use. Mike agreed that one person ordering may increase coordination but not really cost savings. Morgen asked if centralized communication would have a positive impact but Harry explained that the databases are different. Morgen then brought up the different mission statements. Carla believes a

positive would be crossing the line between Rec and Youth sports. Youth programs would take a step up because under Harry's tutelage. The line between the 2 would be clearer so they could get the fundamentals stronger. Carla added that Hilary has made positive changes in this regard also but lack of facilities and grey area between the 2 tie her hands to some extent. Harry believes that looking at Portsmouth should define this issue. Al added that the kids are on so many different levels in playing ability and asked if combining would still create opportunities for those kids who are doing it just for fun. Harry answered that as a community we need to have youth sports and recreation. High school level is all about interscholastic and winning the prize.

Mike then turned the discussion to any concerns of any potential merger? Morgen started by asking if the workload would be too much for one person. Mike added that if it's too big then one person won't want it and programs will suffer. Morgen also brought up confusion of programs which may just be transitional but still a problem. Carla added that the ability to communicate directly with one department head would be lost because the job is so big. Everything would be trickle down and not get done. There's also a major transition from recreation to youth to MA rules. Harry agreed that the expectations are different at MRD. Harry said another issue is education of coaches. Coordinating just that piece is huge. NHIAA continually changes the rules so there's always an annual re-education process. There's also management and registration of kids and coaches. Harry added that MA also pays coaches while MRD does not. Carla added the risk factor is huge. Mike informed the group that if merger is recommended it doesn't mean MRD would necessarily be dismantled. Harry stated that someone in an official capacity is at all games as game administrator. Someone always needs to be around for the key for the AED as well. Carla has concerns that kids would get lost in the shuffle. Celeste added that they have such different philosophies that have nothing to do with cost savings. Al mentioned that Carter brought up cost savings but not sure it would benefit financially. Mike reiterated that the possibility of saying it's all working fine is on the table and he has no preconceived notions. Harry told Mike that he may want to call St Johnsbury in Vermont. They may have merged as well. Mike asked about any other stakeholders he should contact. Al said Joanne Farnham may be a good contact for the Seniors. Freddie Gale used to be in charge of the Senior group. The discussion concluded with Al inviting him back.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Celeste explained that we were thinking of having an August meeting or helping at the Pep Rally. Carla also explained that it was for parents to sign the code of conduct contract. It was decided unanimously that RAB will forgo an August meeting for Pep Rally. Celeste will ask about the date.

VI. RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Recreation Department Report attached. No one was available from the Rec. Dept. to highlight any parts.

Harry brought up that he went down to Playground Drive recently and a group from Lasalette was down there at same time as a MRD camp and they were all over the place. There was a lot of kids with lax supervision. He's curious if they have permission and if the town/MRD cut a deal with them. And do they have liability insurance? Carla believes they are allowed to be there and the park is not MRD maintained but is town maintained. Al added that the Selectmen run the town so someone there should know. Celeste will ask who gives them permission.

VII. CITIZEN INPUT: NONE.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Celeste made motion to adjourn. Morgen seconded. Motion carried. With no further business before the Board Al adjourned at 8:33 p.m.