

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

October 17, 2011

Present: Al Hume, Carla Taylor, Chris Shipp, Celeste Burns. Community Members: Connor Mahoney. Excused with Notice: Morgen Gillis, Harry Blood

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Al called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: Carla made the motion to approve the minutes, Celeste seconded the Motion. Approved.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Discussion of After School Report: Celeste handed out the after school report and correspondence received from Rebecca Bryant that pertains to the program. Al explained that this report is part of Carter's process to review merger and will be presented by Mike at the BOS meeting on October 27th. Donna presented concerns she had regarding the report on the After School Program report as presented by Michael Branley. She also explained that Carla used to run an after school program but there's no program now at MA or MCS. When Carla ran the program it was for 7th grade and up and MRD starts at 5th grade and is mainly 5-8 grades.

Carla, at Al's request, commented on the report. She doesn't use the MRD and the current programs at the school don't offer anything in which she enrolls her children. When she ran the program the teachers had a lot of problems with it and the school didn't offer oversight. It saved some kids that were falling through the cracks. Ideally it would be at the school and it should happen but it was a breakdown with the administration.

Celeste has one daughter eligible to attend the after school program and she finds it very beneficial. Her daughter is a red-cross certified babysitter so sending her to the MRD has nothing to do with needing a sitter. According to Celeste, her daughter interacts socially with both her peers and other adults in a positive atmosphere at the MRD. It's hard to find a place where teenagers actually want to go where there is positive supervision so Celeste appreciates the program as it currently exists. She also pointed out that the report is

inaccurate when it discusses a day in September that the after school program only had three children. The program didn't start until October and she wished facts were checked before offering them up in the report.

Chris commented that the entire report is based on the assumption that the merger happens and that they put a lot of credence in 25 comments. The schools and MRD are two separate entities with separate functions. These reports seem to be picking away at the MRD with an effort to dismantle it. He knows that the kids love the after school program. The Schools are easy to get to and that's why most people seem to like that location but the bus does drop off right at the community center. There's no real benefit to getting rid of the program and the MRD seems to be under more of a microscope than any other organization in this town. Chris further added that in reading the comments in the report that he is frustrated because this should have all been brought up when community center issue came up. It's not the MRD's fault that the building is small. He believes that the comments really say that the MRD needs a bigger facility. Al recommended that Chris bring these points to the attention of the BOS.

Al added that only a few parents were asked about this program but this is a small town and the vocal minority is steering the town at this point. Parents aren't coming out to fight. Al pointed out to Donna that he is basing his opinion on the Report because she has put nothing in writing and she should have told the BOS her concerns by this point. Donna explained that when this first came out all 5 Selectmen said they were not in favor of it so she didn't comment at that time and the issue has been repeatedly tabled at subsequent meetings.

Donna then was given the floor to elaborate on her concerns of the report which are, as follows: the first recommendation assumes the MRD has moved out of the building. The BRC never intended the MRD and the MVNA to jointly occupy the space and would cause huge privacy issues and many other concerns. The success of the MRD programs should not be judged only on the revenue they do or do not produce. The after school program offers a safe place for middle-school children during the "prime risk time" and, since its inception, has given 1000 children a place to learn new skills and foster friendships while being supervised. Also, the meeting this past Summer with both Principals when both said they don't have the consistent space for the program was ignored. The report also talks about parents wanting a 6:00 p.m. pick up time but the MRD offered it before and no one stayed past 5:30 so they changed the time.

Carla brought up the point that the concern is for the safety of the kids and asked if anyone asked Donna how to make it work with the school. If they axe the program then the MRD loses personnel and kids lose services. She'd like to step out of the box and come up with a different solution. Donna stated that the program would not operate under the same level with the current circumstances at the school because the staff at MRD are better equipped for the program. The school doesn't even want the program. Chris has a problem with the way this is all going and believes this whole town is stirred up into a frenzy over MRD and again added that the program has no problem and it shouldn't be changed. He then added that, as a committee, we benefit from the way the program is being run and we should be asked about this and wants to know why we aren't being a bridge to the town and the MRD. As a board he wants the RAB to decide if we're in favor or not [but did not make a motion]. Al agreed with what Carla is saying. The BRC did say we should have new facilities but we're not going to see it in a year so what can we do to enhance or remedy the situation now. With this economy it's not going to be a done deal so let's try to come up with something. Al wants to vote to see if we can get Mike back in here so we can decide how we feel on this issue [but he did

not make a motion]. Carla stated that the report is not in the best interest of the kids. Al doesn't feel like he has enough information to vote. Chris made a motion that the RAB does not endorse the Report because it is not in the best interest of the children. Celeste seconds. Donna added that she has not been included in any part of the process from the past year. Neither has Harry or Andy. She then referred to an ABC quote that reads in part, at some point the people that have the expertise that are being affected need to be involved. Chris, Carla and Celeste voted in favor. Al abstains. Motion carries. Celeste will send it to the BOS.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Code of Conduct Delivery Process: Donna is not sure if they should go back to parent meetings, Nutty November or some other process. Al questioned the turnout and Donna replied that they had a good turnout for fall 2010 but not Nutty November. The staff at MRD felt like they were in overkill and then ran out of time this summer. Carla reminded Donna that we came to the conclusion that we have a code of conduct in defense of MRD and now it's fallen by the wayside. Carla added that the RAB hasn't been consulted even though MRD needs staff and the RAB is not in the loop. Chris asked if the intent is to modify behavior. Al answered in the negative saying it gave a vehicle and a process for the MRD. Donna can't do 12 meetings again. Al added that the reason we did it is because they're eventually going to Harry. Carla added that it's a community thing and we need meetings. Chris has no problem with the Code of Conduct but Moultonborough is the only place we've had to go to a meeting [for youth sports]. Donna stated that the MRD is not throwing the Code of Conduct out the window, they actively use it and she is looking for suggestions on how to deliver to athletes and parents.

VI. RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Donna delivered her attached report and added that the MRD could use help for the Halloween party at 5 pm on the 28th

VII. CITIZEN INPUT: Connor brought up the after school report and stated that he agreed with the comment regarding MRD being under a microscope. He added that half the people that have problems with it never even come to MRD. It was safe when he used the program. He's at MA every day and every field has practice, even the cafeteria is being used after school. There's not one place that has space. It was suggested that he write these comments to the BOS. Al added that he doesn't know what's going on over at MA and what Connor said is important. He instructed him to be there to read it into record or the BOS will mention your name and give a 10 word overview of the letter.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board Al adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.