

****Please Note: Items to be placed on the Meeting Agenda must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the preceding Friday****

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.

Monday, July 13, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Davis Room, Town Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Celeste, Chris, Al, Donna, Carla.

Absent: Matt

Community: 15 total including Ginger Ishkanian, Joe Cormier, Barry Ritkin, Jules Tremblay, Paul Worth, Paul Punterieri, Deb Comfe, Allan Ballard, Jim Leiferman who spoke.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Carla called the meeting to order at 7:01
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
- III. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2015: Celeste made the Motion to approve the Minutes and Al seconded. Motion carried.

In light of the number of attendees wishing to speak to the Pickle Ball Issue Carla skipped to Community Input:

Virginia Ishkanian asked to speak first and is new to town and has offered to be a spokesperson to address the "growing pains" issues of Pickle Ball. She has had 2 meetings with Donna and Staff. She read a letter to the

Board (which will also be posted on the MRD/RAB website). She addressed growing pains which affect court availability. By her figures there are 29 players/12 spaces, which is 3 courts and has a 17 person max according to a study from Missouri she cited. She stated that MRD continues to sign up new players without adding court space. Players wait 30-40 minutes then have short playing time. She'd like to share space by making lines on tennis courts. She further stated that all want a healthy pickle ball program but she believes there is a lack of a clear plan to solve problem before August 5th. Carla then opened the floor up to Community comment. Joe Cormier spoke next and is looking at accounting of pickleball. Chris disseminated email info on his behalf. (This was a large packet and is available at MRD.) He looked at fees vs. taxes because he believes the cost is more than necessary and revenue producing so is a tax. He then cited some RSAs in that regard. He wants to leave pickleball nets up or take tennis nets down. Barry Ritkin: he is a seasonal resident and read a letter into the Minutes (which will be on the website) from homeowners John and Ellen Garneau, who are 2 voluntary pickleball instructors. The writers believe resources are outpaced by new registrations. They appreciate MRD and work put into program. Ritkin believes its not a fad and is growing nationwide. Virginia added that they [the Garneaus] have helped so many new players. Joe Cornier closed by adding that he believes pickleball has a fee but tennis doesn't. Jules Tremblay: he has been here since 2000 and likes the time for socializing as well and tennis courts don't seem busy. Donna K thanked everyone for coming. She knew the program was expanding and started researching options in the Spring with Scott Kinmond [who is in charge of the facilities]. She has also been monitoring use of tennis courts to ensure they are needed. She has also reached out to Advantage Tennis who maintains the Courts and they don't believe multiuse would work [in the form of striping permanent lines]. Wolfeboro had a 65K private donation that created pickleball courts there. Other instructors have students with issues with lines of tennis alone so to add more makes it very confusing. She is also working to make changes programmatically and has looked at capping enrollment, eliminating open enrollment, establishing residency

rules. She and the MRD staff are working on multiple fronts. Joe reiterated his position. Donna explained that all programs are inclusive of the recreation department. She would consider leaving up nets if they could. Chris asked how to play cooperatively and Paul Worth answered that temporary nets could be put up that he believes satisfies both sides. He'd like one tennis court designated for pickleball only. Chris asked about color of lines. Multiple attendees answered yellow. Chris believes there's 2 issues and if people want to play then we should accommodate. Paul Punterieiri commented that lines for tennis courts have been budgeted so issue of relining would not be an out of pocket expense necessarily. Chris stated that there seems to be some short term solution unless we do a bigger project with the skating rink, which he supports. Carla believes in the existence of the RAB and is excited that there's a program that is too big and believes it builds community. Al inquired about the number of people signed up. Donna explained that there are 2 programs, singles and doubles with 43 total. Most are signed up for both. Drop in program #s have had 21X that people have come in. Al asked about previous tennis program that had a signup of 24 hours in advance - it was in the 70's according to Donna. Al wants to stripe tennis courts. Donna and Scott's plans were more long term. Chris stated that Donna does want both programs to co-exist. Deb Comfe (?sp) has been playing since last year. She believes there was only one day this summer all 4 tennis courts were used but all other days its usually one instructor and a couple students. She feels like pickleball is not getting a fair shake. Joe suggested using tape. Barry: pickleball doesn't have a home amongst all the other sports. Chris brought up skating rink again and feels that it is the best spot. DK believes it could hold 4 courts. Alan Ballard has no side on the issue and commented that the MRD isn't flexible in the short term. Celeste commented that she too was appreciative of the turn out, has been a supporter from the beginning and questioned if the players wanted reduced enrollment or more space. The consensus was more courts. Donna was again questioned about scheduling by several residents, particularly an answer date on questions posed tonight, and went through their programming and why she couldn't commit to a specific date. Chris added that a

goal is reasonable but it is still Donna's decision as head of the department. Jim Leiderman would like a date in July to hear a decision from MRD regarding lines or something equivalent. In his view the MRD is not being fair to people that are signing up because we don't have room. The MRD needs to stand behind contract and may be unintentionally shortchanging people. Al would like to see Donna, BOS and Scott sit down and find a solution. Donna added that the program being beyond current court capacity is not a negative because members don't want enrollment restrictions. Donna added that it is her and Scott's decision alone to paint lines or come up with a viable solution and reiterated that they have been spending many hours on it. Carla countered that the MRD is running the program so making the decision but attendees need reassurance that they can sign up for next session with direction. Jim would like to possibly limit enrollment. Chris suggested possibly playing stronger and weaker players separately. Nets were left up for campers today so perhaps they could be left up longer? Chris stated that he is here as citizen not BOS member and that this is a good problem to have. Pickle ball is here and we need to look at something more permanent. Skating rink seems ideal. Talking thousands but could work long term and it's a perfect place for it. Al suggested that the MRD put something big in budget. Barry thinks people will start their own leagues and will be more competition for MRD. Chris would like to see cost estimate and Donna estimated \$500 for 2 on one tennis court but is still looking into best options. Carla asked if tennis be more accommodating in next session. Chris asked if tennis lessons are thru MRD? Donna replied in the affirmative.

In reference to Joe's revenue/tax question that he posed at the beginning of the meeting Carla said that Donna shouldn't address it. Joe then agreed she shouldn't as he has already addressed Board of Selectmen. The Board's consensus was that this was not the right forum. Carla thanked all for attending and providing input.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Addressed in Community Input

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on gym facility: this item will be changed in future agendas to accurately reflect the question of the current status of programming for the school year. Celeste attended a meeting this morning in regards to the potential lease with the IC school and has nothing to update.
- b. Copy of letter sent to Ms. Boulter: Celeste disseminated and will post on website per Mr. Ballard's request.

VI. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Donna relayed the following: summer programs going well. Had one rainy day that required implementation of inclement weather plan with schools. Went okay but was a bit challenging for older kids. Cabbage Island clambake on Wednesday has 45 people signed up. Duck Boat tour running a bit differently and has a waiting list. Water carnival this Saturday 2-4. Adult tennis tourney coming up. Pathway fun run coming up. Recsploration is the new 7th week of camp.

Chris asked about drop in pickleball and Donna stated it same time as regular program and explained that it is \$5 for one time. MWF @ 9:00. Carla asked about rain dates and cancelling camp and they have not cancelled yet. Al asked about how to notify and MRD uses one call. Celeste asked about lifeguarding - 2 under where she would like to be. Instructor count is down. Donna thinks the economy getting better makes jobs easier to find. The one instructor has a huge responsibility teaching all ages. Carla asked about parent feedback - no complaints but no survey done.

VII. CITIZEN/MEMBER INPUT: see above

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: August 10. Donna will be at MRD event.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT: Celeste made the motion to adjourn at 8:39.
Chris seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Celeste Burns
RAB Vice-Chair/Secretary

DRAFT