

Recreation Strategic Planning Committee Minutes
8 January 2008 Work Session - Recreation Building

Present: Donna, John, Hilary, Kim, Lisa, Tom, Suzanne, Brian, Nancy, Freddie, Chris, Kay

The session began at 6:10 PM with a discussion of the group's role following Chairman McRae's 'resignation.' It was noted that the group was never officially appointed or even recognized by the town in the annual report; it originated as a group of parents interested in recreation issues. John will continue to support the team from the sidelines. Tom Howard will become the point man for the team as was determined by consensus.

Group members questioned the purpose of the public hearing scheduled by the Selectmen for Thursday as the team was never officially notified; was it for the community/senior center, or was it for the Strategic Plan? We'll proceed on the assumption that the hearing is on the Strategic Plan, since we are still awaiting a decision by the Board of Selectmen which should be carried as 'old business' on the following four issues presented to them at their October 25th meeting:

- Inclusion of Strategic Plan recommendations in the town's Capital Improvement Plan and Master Plan
- Allow the volunteer 'Hockey Dads' to expand the current rink building
- Proceed with a study of the State's Landing beach area
- Provide the RSPT with direction on how to move forward

It was noted that, in an apparent duplication of time, money, and effort, the Master Plan committee has appointed an entirely new recreation subcommittee, once again with biased individuals and chaired by the Alliance secretary. It was the understanding of those present that originally, the RSPT work would fulfill the Master Plan recreation requirements. The strategy/feasibility study goes far beyond the scope of any master plan. John has met with MRI and will pursue.

The group briefly reviewed recommendations of the Municipal Needs Committee regarding RSPT's work. Some of the concerns raised were:

--The 5 teams proposed are to be subcommittees of the MNC; this does not seem to allow for other points of view and the work suggested has already been completed as part of the strategy. Where are the volunteers coming from? The Master Plan Committee is already looking for many volunteers.

--Looking at the MNC's Action Plan, it appears that the MNC has taken upon itself the power to direct the efforts of other community groups, such as school athletics, the Lions Club, and the Senior Needs Committee. The role being assumed by the MNC is beyond their scope of responsibility. When did the selectmen approve the MNC responsibilities and what are they?

--The town has already expended funds for an engineer, a septic designer, a landscape contractor, a building contractor, and a soil scientist to look at the property and determine the high water levels in different areas of the Lions property. Paying an additional \$25,000, as the MNC recommends, to monitor water level of test pits is not going to change the results and is merely another action to delay moving forward as well as a waste of town money. It also indirectly attacks the credibility of those recommendations made by professionals.

--Discussed the condition of the current Lion's Club Building and usability as a public meeting location, particularly the after school program. The logistics are horrendous, there are conflict of schedules and a significant requirement to setup and take down by who? The MNC doesn't seem to understand the workings of the after school program.

--Discussion followed about how an Alliance biased MNC can or should be allowed to make recommendations on a project conflicting with the dump that they are sponsoring and vying for the same capital reserve funds. There are multiple conflict of interests involved which need to be recognized.

Next meeting time was established as Monday Jan 14th at 6PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40

Respectfully Submitted by Kay, Donna & John