

Tana Babbitt in attendance
Leonard Cidado in attendance
Kathleen DeGrandis in attendance
Charlie Hammond in attendance
Mike McDonald Chairman in attendance
Elizabeth Nikiciuk not in attendance
Robert Benton not in attendance

Jennifer Hruniak Director in attendance
Anne Daley Program Director in attendance
Tara Minnette in attendance

Re: Recreation Committee meeting Monday November 26, 2007

Meeting commenced 7:30 pm

APPROVAL of OCTOBER MINUTES

Leonard motioned to approve the minutes, Tana seconded, all in favor, October minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike asked Jennifer to explain the gift account. Jennifer spoke to Wendy and said when money is donated to the Recreation Department it should be spent for recreation programs. We can not turn around and give it to the school. As far as the recreation department buying the equipment, Jennifer said the recreation dept is working towards being self funding so programs we have need to generate enough money. The weightlifting program would not make enough money to cover the expense of the equipment. Mike asked what is in the gift account Jennifer said around 39,000.00. Mike asked if we can use this to pay for the pool. Jennifer said we will probably have to. Mike said the Frothingham Hall purchase

was approved at the Town Meeting. Jennifer said we are one of two eligible for the Lions Club/Jaycees Grant. There is a meeting December 8th where we will need to answer a number of questions. Jennifer visited the site with Meagan O'Brien to work on the design for the playground. Jennifer passed out information for the board to review. Mike asked Jennifer to research all questions that could be asked such as warranty, replacement parts, installation cost, permits, safety rating and timeframe. Mike asked Jennifer to contact Doug King before the December 8 meeting to see what can be done about the field. There is a lot of work to be done to the site before we can get started. It would be great to have it done for the Tee Ball season that begins in May.

LAND FEASIBILITY STUDIES- status

Jen informed the Commission that tomorrow she is having a conference call with CDM about different parcels of land. Next Mike said there are two parcels of land for fields at this point. One is located on Williams Street; this would be an extension of the playground and T-ball field behind the old Grammar School. The other piece of land is located on Washington Street and is about 13 acres in size. This land is privately owned right now, but the owner is looking to sell.

WINTER PROGRAMS- status

Anne spoke about this year's winter programs. She said the ski and snowboarding sign up forms just went out. A tubing trip to Neshoba Valley has been planned. This trip will take place on a half day of school. A skating program for ages 2 to 8 years old will also take place this winter, around 12 students have already signed up for the program. The homework club is in session after school. Two teachers work every day. Anne continued to say that she has applied for a grant from the police union to help the homework club. Mike asked how much it cost each year to run the homework club. Anne replied that it is around \$11.6 thousand, not including the buses. The price of the bus is covered by the police department. Anne continued saying the men's basketball league will start soon and hopefully they will have access to both High School gyms. There is approximately 120 to 130 men participate. Volleyball will start back up in January, when the other gym is finished. Mike commented that the Recreation needs to focus on more anchor programs to bring in profit. Leonard recommended maybe raising the fee for men's basketball to make more money. Jennifer updated the Commission saying discounted Celtics tickets did not work out for this year, but should be able to get them next season. Anne ended saying that over 50 students came out this year for the High School's wrestling team and she is hoping to get wrestling back for the 7th and 8th graders. After the JH gym opens we should have more options.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS- status

Anne said the homework club is off to a great start we have 2 teachers a day. There are two teachers that are interested in having after school movies. She reiterated the snow tubing trip which will take place on a half day and the ski and snowboarding program that begins January 8 and runs for 5 weeks. Last year we had 2 busses. Anne also added that George Allen is interested in starting a Rock and Roll Club for students after school. Kathy mentioned maybe sponsoring a Battle of the Bands night if a lot of students in town are interested in music.

POOL FUNDS

Mike asks about the SERD subcommittee and how much money will be left in that account to help support the pool. Anne replied saying right now there is around \$22 thousand, but this will be mostly used to pay pool expenses before the pool opens this coming summer. Anne and Jennifer are working on increasing the amount of money for both pool salary and chlorine within the budget. Jennifer said the budget is due December 17th and she is going to request the increase in money for the pool. Mike then asks about getting chlorine from a different company for cheaper, but Anne mentions that she went with the town contract and this is the best source.

NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer begins saying she met with Paul O'Neil and Wayne Southworth from the DPW. They were able to give her a report called Easton Outdoor Sports Facilities. This report was done by Adrienne Edwards, who does the GIS mapping for the Town. This report summarizes all of the fields in Town, who owns them, and where there is room for field expansion. Jennifer said it looks like Center School fields could expand. Jennifer thought this report, which each member of the Commission received, is a good start to get a feel for where there are possible parcels of land. Jennifer also talked to Mark Russo, the Town Planner, and he wanted to make sure the Commission was aware of the \$50 thousand donated for a soccer field off Bay Road. Mike replied saying the Commission is aware of this money and the money is in one of the Recreation's accounts. Kathy commented that she is confused about all the different Recreation accounts and was wondering if the Commission could be presented with an account summary each meeting. She thinks this would be a good reference for each meeting. Mike and Jennifer think this is a good idea. Jennifer then said that the Recreation Department has been given a "hand me down" truck from the Board of Health. Jennifer is thinking about asking for a Recreation vehicle, maybe a van, when she meets about the capital budget. Mike recommends knowing how much usage this vehicle would get before asking. Anne mentions the Adopt a Historic Building informational packet that was handed out to the Commission. Mike thinks maybe receiving the packet is just to increase the communication between different departments. Kathy adds that she read in the newspaper that if you adopt a building you get a free lease for 25 years, but you must do repairs. Mike recommends everyone read the packet and go from there. Leonard talked to the High School football coach and he would be interested in staffing a Recreation

sponsored summer lifting program. Leonard thinks this would be a good idea if making profit is possible. Mike thinks maybe doing a pilot of this program in the winter would be beneficial. Leonard said that the equipment for the gym has been ordered and he will further talk to the coach. Mike thinks maybe have the coach come into the Recreation Department to talk about possibilities. Kathy asks if the staff will have any certifications, so the lifting is instructed correctly. Mike said they will look in to that and the football coach is also a gym teacher so he should have some type of certification or education.

Meeting adjourned 8:16pm

Next meeting Tuesday January 15, 2007

Approval of Minutes

Mike McDonald Chairman

Tara Minnette / Anne Daley