

## Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, November 18, 2008

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

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance  
Anne Daley, Program Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:08PM

### Review and Vote on October Minutes

Charlie motioned to accept, Tana seconded, all in favor, October minutes accepted.

### Old Business

Mike asked Jennifer to check with Mike Green on the status of the surfacing expansion at the Olmsted playground. Jennifer reported that she spoke with Mike Green regarding maintenance of the Olmsted/Richardson playgrounds. He informed her that central maintenance will keep an eye on the structures and take care of any issues that arise, as they do with the other school playgrounds in town. Len requested that we ask Mike Green for a letter stating this for our records. Jennifer will also try to get a playground maintenance schedule from M.E. O'Brien & Sons. She believes the playground company will periodically come out and inspect the playgrounds free of charge.

Jennifer reported that the \$1020 playground reimbursement from the Olmsted/Richardson Parent Advisory Councils has not yet been received. Len said he will mention this to Stephanie Coose. Jennifer will work with Elizabeth to contact the chairperson of each PAC for reimbursement.

Mike reiterated that he would like the Recreation Commission involved in any discussions regarding the Friends Crossing property. Jennifer will let the Commission

know when another Friends Crossing meeting is scheduled to take place. Len said he attended his first CPA meeting last week and found it very informative. He would like David Colton to know that the Recreation Commission is interested in multi-use fields at Friends Crossing.

#### Town Pool Discussion with SERD Committee

SERD President, Robin Horrigan, and SERD members Colleen Corona, Beth Griffith, and Jennifer Fraone introduced themselves to the Commission. The 2008 financial statement for the town pool was distributed and reviewed. Colleen said the pool budget looks significantly better than the last few years. Len reminded the group that staff hours were cut this year and he is concerned that a number of good lifeguards won't return next summer because of this. Anne said that shortened pool hours really made a difference in the budget. Robin noted that Sundays were not well attended this year. Jennifer said this is something we will look at closely when determining pool hours for next year. Mike thanked SERD for their tremendous fundraising efforts. He would like to begin preliminary discussions about keeping the pool open next year. He feels the pool would be the first item cut in the budget due to the poor economy. Colleen stated the budget numbers for next year are not available yet. Mike said if we have the same budget amount next year, we may need SERD's help. Jennifer Fraone asked if the pool's profit from this year will carry over to next summer. Jennifer said this money is in the department's revolving account and can be carried over into next year. Colleen suggested that we wait for next year's budget figures before asking SERD for help. The SERD fund is for money needed to keep the pool open in an emergency. Robin said the group formed during a crisis situation. SERD worked hard to raise this money and does not want to see it spent very quickly. This money won't be raised again when it is gone. Colleen noted that it shouldn't be spent all in one year. Tana said it is her hope that the money raised by SERD will keep the pool open for this generation of children and inspire the next generation of parents to raise funds in order to keep the pool open for their children. Robin said that many in the group already have children who have outgrown the pool. Tana said the money shouldn't be hoarded for future use. The next group of parents with young children should work to raise funds as well. Colleen would like the money to be stretched as long as possible.

#### Report on Programs

Anne distributed financial reports for the department's snow tubing field trip, spring running club, tee ball, archery, skyhawks, and summer program. All of these programs brought in significant revenue, especially tee ball. Mike would like to see the department develop more programs capable of generating revenue similar to that of tee ball. Jennifer said before and after school child care and preschool programs are the key to generating funds. She looks forward to the department moving to Frothingham Hall and acquiring the space needed to add these programs. She would like to add a K-1 instructional basketball program next year. Tana suggested offering ultimate Frisbee this spring/summer. Jennifer said the number of "active seniors" keeps growing and the department should also focus on developing programs for this population who may not necessarily utilize the services of the Council on Aging.

#### New Business

Cid reported on the Community Visioning Session he attended in October. The Preservation and Public Facilities groups both included the Recreation Commission in their vision. Preservation would like to see the Commission involved in all recreational and sports activities in town, including both public and private sectors, the purchase of land and fields, and working more closely with the Open Space Committee. Public Facilities would like to see the Commission involved in acquiring and developing fields, bike paths, land and buildings. They would also like to see the Commission become the town-wide coordinating body for fields and recreational space. Jennifer was part of the Public Facilities group and agrees with the vision that was presented. She said the group presentations are being pulled together into one report. Mike said we should begin to act on these items as soon as we receive this report.

Jennifer reported that she invited Pat Hunt to attend this meeting to discuss recreational land being considered by the CPC but she was unable to attend. Mike suggested inviting Pat to the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, January 20, 2008

Approval of Minutes

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Michael McDonald, Chairman

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Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director