

Peterborough Recreation Committee, (PRC), Meeting
Roland "Beaver" Jutras Recreation Building
Minutes of February 3, 2010, 7:00 PM
(Approved)

Attendees: Tina Kriebel, Chair; Paula Stewart; Andrew Dunbar; Elizabeth Thomas, Selectperson; Barbara Miller, Selectperson; Joe Byk, Selectperson; Jeffrey M. King, Recreation Director; Craig C. Fraley, Program Coordinator; Robert Lambert, PRD/Budget Committee Liaison, Howard Russell, Peterborough Resident and Lisa A. Betz, Administrative Assistant/Minute Taker.

- I) Meeting called to order: at 7:00 PM by Tina.
- II) Approval of Minutes: The approval of the Minutes will be on next month's agenda due to the lack of a quorum eligible to vote this month.
- III) Director's Report:
- A) The good attendance numbers of the Senior Lunches, on Monday here at the PRD was noted.
 - B) The Armory was discussed as far as the Town receiving a +/- \$33,000 grant from the Goyette Fund.
 - 1) Jeff and Selectperson Miller agreed to purchase \$4,500 worth of used commercial kitchen equipment for the Armory from the Sennetts, residents of Peterborough. Jeff noted the equipment is in excellent condition.
 - 2) The rest of the money might be enough to renovate 1 bathroom.
 - C) Regarding the deed to the Armory, it appears to have been misfiled and until the Adjutant General of the National Guard signs the correct deed and the Attorney General's office turns it over to the town, nothing can be done.
- IV) Program Report: A couple items were addressed.
- A) Paula noted that the SVEV basketball program appeared to be well run this year.
 - B) Paula felt that there needs to be better communication when it comes to programming during Teacher Workshop Days – regarding cancellations – especially when parents are counting on the supervision of their child when the parents are working.
 - C) Andy expressed his concern regarding offering programs that center around

gambling and food functions. He is of the mind that these types of programs are either promoting a dangerous addiction or promote unhealthy habits.

- V) Ice Skating/Ice Rink Discussion: The question was raised as to why the dasher boards cannot be taken off and the area flooded...forming a “pond” to skate on.
- A) The boards are pressure treated and the disposal of them would cost money that is not in the budget.
 - B) The rink surface is not level; there is a 9 inch difference between the two sides. This requires an enormous amount of water to cover the high end by just 1 inch. It also requires daily maintenance.
 - C) There was some talk about getting a rink kit that has plastic and other necessary components. The kits cost several thousand dollars and Jeff stated that the plastic liner can be ripped if those maintaining it are not careful. The last one we had was shredded when it was plowed.
 - D) It was decided that the boards should be removed, as a safety measure, and put to the side until there is enough money in the budget to dispose of them properly.
 - E) On a side note, regarding safety - three or four of the fence posts on Union Street, protecting the softball field - need to be replaced. Jeff would like to put up black vinyl fencing – but again – budgeting is an issue.
- VI) Basketball Committee Update: The committee has not met yet.
- VII) Concession Trailer Ideas: The PRD owns a hot dog cart but it is only occasionally used. The cost of payroll is usually more than any monies made. The PRD/PRC needs to establish a policy though regarding non-profits, private businesses, fundraising organizations and their selling of concessions on PRD property.
- A) Costs need to be determined...electricity, water use etc.
 - B) Infrastructure is also a big consideration because the current layout of the fields and the location of possible concession sites do not seem to be accommodating in the support of each other.
 - C) A possible location would be near the Ecco Field building. If this site is developed, Monadnock Youth Softball would most likely be responsible in developing/building it.
 - D) If any concession areas were developed out near Picard Field, the electrical supply would have to be enhanced (from 110 voltage service to 220 voltage service) to support any concessions. This could be a large expense.
- VIII) Non-PRD Sponsored Organization Fee Discussion: There is the need to clean up the equitability issue of other organizations using PRD property. A lot of the criteria would have to be based upon exclusivity of the property use where Peterborough residents are unable to use the property. The PWSC is an example of this. Although non-residents on the swim team pay for use of the pool, there is no overall charge for the use of the pool – maintenance etc. This topic will be addressed at a later date.

- IX) Action Items List: Tina would like PRC members to look at the action items list and email her as to the progress that is being made on them.
- X) New Business: Jeff passed out Craig's resignation letter due to his recent acceptance of a position as the Recreation Director for the Town of Rindge. Many congratulations went to him. Select Board Chair, Barbara Miller, also presented Craig with his 5 years of service award as well as some kind words about his creativity.
- XI) Select Board Visit/Discussion: Selectperson Miller spoke first regarding the potential acceptance of the Armory and the Select Board's insistence that the Armory's operations are self sustaining – emphasizing the necessity of not relying on any taxpayer dollars going into the Armory. The Select Board wanted to hear the stance the PRC takes on the viable operation of the Armory without any tax payers dollars utilized in its operation.
- A) Selectperson Byk expanded on this idea by mentioning all of the Town services that may have to be cut to absorb the \$300,000 that may be lost due to the State withholding Rooms & Meals tax revenue to offset their budget....impacting the Town's budgets. Operationally, the \$300,000 represents 13% of the overall budget. He stated that the Town is past the point of "shaving the fat off the bone, the Town is now shaving the bone."
- B) Bob Lambert passed out a sheet outlining possible cuts if the Select Board decides to absorb additional downshifting.
- C) Andy expressed his concern about the monies already spent on the Armory as well as his concern about providing recreational services to non-residentshow the PRD would cover this so taxpayers won't have to carry the burden.
- D) Andy asked about monies already spent on the Armory (ie; legal fees, \$10,000 to \$20,000) and his concern that other expenses might occur and get hidden in the budget somewhere.
- E) Selectperson Miller is going to look into those expenses for she does not believe that much was spent. To date, none of the monies designated for heat have been spent.
- F) Bob Lambert interjected that we cannot let the building rot.
- G) Liz reminded everyone that the building can be sold, but the profits would not go to the Town.
- H) Paula expressed her opinion that there is a need for a community center – for the elderly, for young child programming and childcare, to name a few.
- I) There was a suggestion that part of the Armory be rented out to subsidize the operational expense of the Armory. This could be on a long term or short term basis. The Monadnock Country Club is an example of an organization that does this.
- J) Andy again expressed his concern about staffing needs coming down upon the taxpayers.
- K) Tina addressed the group saying that the PRC is well aware of the economy and the consideration of taxpayers. She felt the Armory would have to be approached

- carefully and creatively. It may very well be a multi-year process. A 12 month trial would have to occur to see if the Armory can be a self sustaining venture.
- L) Craig offered that recreational programming is considered fee-based in Peterborough so he feels that residents would expect fees to occur.
 - M) Paula expressed her thought that fundraising is important to re-furbish the Armory. Certain steps have to occur before the armory can even open its doors to the public – both safety and ADA compliance wise as well as conforming to municipality standards.
 - N) Select Person Thomas said that we could rent the building, but not for profit.
 - O) Select Person Byk drew a graph on the whiteboard – showing the need to determine
 - a break-even point and how long it would take to get there. Once that point is determined, then folks can decide if that point/timetable is acceptable. All costs – ie: maintenance, need to be determined and factored in. It was determined (**BY WHOM**) that the Armory’s operational costs would run about \$100/day.
 - P) Jeff offered that the building can be open in bits and spurts to accommodate programming that would indeed be self sustaining without violating any codes. He feels that the increased use of the Armory would occur very slowly.
 - Q) Andy would like to see all expenses used on the Armory. He is very concerned that expenses do not get absorbed into the Town’s overall operational budget.
 - R) Mr. Russell spoke to the idea of forming a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated towards the development of the Armory. He has experience in this area and is willing to help. He feels seniors in Town would be willing to help, on a volunteer level.
 - S) Craig offered that some recreational programs have been used as fundraisers themselves...ie: the roller skating program at SMS to buy interactive projectors as a teaching tool for the teachers.
 - T) Jeff spoke of his experience in Marblehead, MA where a 2.5 million dollar community center was built, but that was just the shell of the building. He had to be creative in furnishing and wiring the building in getting it up and running. He feels the Armory presents its own challenges but they are not insurmountable.
 - U) Tina told the Select Board that the PRC hears their concerns and wonders how the Board views the communication connection between the two organizations....asking what the process would be? What the timeline looked like? The Select Board felt that the timeline and communication loop was to be determined by the PRC.
 - V) Again, the monies from the Goyette grant came up as to how much of the opening costs would be covered by the grant. It was determined that more money needs to be acquired to address all the safety, ADA complaint issues as well as municipal standards.
 - W) Tina would like a “bare bones” breakdown of all the issues that need to be addressed and their relative costs just to open the building. If Jeff could get her those expenses and breakdowns to her/PRC in the next couple of weeks, she would appreciate it in helping to determine the potential viability of acquiring the Armory.
 - X) Jeff said that the building inspector’s input, as well as the Fire Chief’s input is a key

factor in bringing the Armory up to code. He needs to determine what the needs are, from an occupancy perspective, and develop a game plan from there – not only in accommodating the minimal needs, but planning for a higher occupancy rate at a later date.

- Y) Select Person Miller stated that moving the elections to the Armory would be a good idea as well as moving the food bank there where access to the food pantry is easier.
- Z) Tina asked the Select Board if they were satisfied with the approach of the PRC regarding the possible acceptance and administration of the Armory Building. The answer was “yes”.

XII) Adjournment: Paula moved to adjourn at 8:50pm, Tina seconded it. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Betz, PRC Minute Taker 02-06-10.