

Peterborough Recreation Committee, (PRC), Meeting
Roland "Beaver" Jutras Recreation Building
Minutes of June 1, 2011 7:00 PM
(Approved)

Attendees: Douglas Thompson – Vice Chair; Andrew Dunbar; Howard Russell; Paula Stewart; Todd Weeks; Bob Lambert, Budget Committee Liaison; Jeffrey M. King, Recreation Director; Lisa A. Koziell-Betz, Recreation Program Coordinator; minutes taken by Joyce Carroll, Administrative Assistant, Guest Sam LaFortune.

- I. Doug called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
- II. Reorganization of the Committee: Doug announced new Recreation Committee member Howard Russell. Doug nominated Andy for Secretary, Todd seconded it. It was unanimously approved. Andy accepted. Paula nominated Todd for Vice Chair, Doug seconded. It was unanimously approved. Doug nominated Paula for Chair, Todd seconded. It was unanimously approved.
- III. Approval of minutes. Andy submitted changes to the minutes...see his copy. Todd moved to accept the minutes as changed. Howard seconded. All approved.

Jeff discussed the PRD awards recently received at the New Hampshire Recreation and Park Association annual meeting. PRD won the Communications Savvy Award, which included recognition of PRD's e-newsletter, Peterborough Press and other outreach material; and second place award in the Fab 4 Foto Contest. The most prestigious award, The Tufts Distinguished Citizen Award, was received by Tina Kriebel. This award is designed to recognize a volunteer individual for their outstanding service.

- IV. Director's Report. Jeff reported that the request for quotes for engineering services for the pool may be going out next week.

Paula asked how the distribution of the beach stickers was going. Jeff reported that approximately 300 stickers had been distributed to date. He also reported that the Chief of Police ticketed individuals at the beach on Friday for those cars that did not display a sticker.

- V. Program Report. Jeff included in the packet the brackets for this weekend's playoff tournament for Girls' Softball, with the Manhattan East and Bellows-Nichols teams playing. Games are scheduled for Friday/Saturday, with the championship game on Sunday. Playoffs for youth lacrosse are scheduled for next weekend.
- VI. Community Center. Andy said that anytime that he receives communications from individuals, he asks that they be submitted in writing and logged in for discussion at a later date. He reported that he had a conversation with two brothers who were residents of Peterborough and knew Isabelle Miller. They submitted a letter to Andy regarding the naming of the community center after Isabelle

Miller. Jeff said that there had been discussions about naming it after a donor, and suggested that if anyone was worthy of having a building named, it would be Isabelle Miller. Jeff added that various buildings have been named after individuals, including Adams Playground, and the Roland “Beaver” Jutras Recreation Building. Paula suggested that the matter be discussed at the next meeting.

Jeff included the rental information for the Community Center in the PRC’s packets including the Fact Sheet, Rental and Usage Facilities, License Agreement. Paula suggested that the PRC needs to look a long term agreement in the future. Andy noted that he would like to see a list of activities, groups that are using the facilities, and a time-tracker of uses.

Jeff reported that he asked the Finance Director for the Revolving Fund report. The Finance Department reported that they are training a new individual, and would get Jeff the documents as soon as possible.

Paula asked if there is anything in place that states that the Community Center it is a “family” center. Jeff stated that Item 8 of the policies and procedures states that groups renting the facility must refrain from using offensive behavior and language, and that this language should cover the matter.

Jeff introduced Sam LaFortune from Club Cannon in Peterborough, and noted that Sam and Jeff have been in discussions for several months regarding the teen center (and the community center). Sam provided the following update on Club Cannon:

The town gave the stewardship of the building to Club Cannon. Creating Positive Change is located in the basement of the building. The program supports substance-free programming within three school districts. Historically the program has received some funding from the state, but lost funding last July 1st, along with many other organizations in the state. They applied to the NH Charitable Fund (bridge grant) which assists organizations who have been affected by funding at the state level, but noted that preventive funding is very difficult to secure. A drug-free community grant will incorporate listening to community members, and include collaborative efforts, town/schools/working partnerships. They are part of a regional, 32-town partnership.

They had hoped that the armory would have been completed and could have included a plan to include the teen center. The plan is to close Club Cannon on July 1st. Sam reported that they don’t have support within the town to continue.

There will be a community forum on July 15th for people from Peterborough to inform them what the issues are regarding healthy communities.

Sam stated that not every child is a “recreation” kid or is athletically inclined. For a variety of reasons they see children with alternative needs, with at least 250 youth served a month. Sam said that these kids typically cannot afford programs, and that many do not have family support. The coalition will continue to work around prevention issues with the schools. They are also working with the teen center in Antrim. Sam felt that it was important not to draw kids away from their own community.

Sam stated that her hope would be that as the PRD moves into the next phase of the Armory/Community Center work, they consider CPC scholarships to have fees paid, and lots of intergenerational work and experiences for young people in our community. Sam hopes that the dialogue remains open, and encouraged everyone to attend the July 15th community forum. Paula asked Sam for a flyer on this upcoming event and asked her to come back when the community center is up and running.

Sam reported that one of the calls for their kids is music, speakers, a board. Many kids involved in the program are not taking music lessons, but enjoy opportunities to play with their friends. The difficult part is to try to fit activities into a time slot, but rather have an open-ended, drop in period for music, making something to eat, etc., not a recreation program, but rather opportunities available with supervision between 3 and 6 p.m. Sam added that they could store/donate their current equipment at the community center.

Andy said that he had questions but felt that there wasn't enough time left. Paula asked if Sam could leave her contact information for questions/answers.

New Business: none

Paula adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Carroll, PRC Minute Taker 06-01-2011.