

Peterborough Recreation Committee, (PRC), Meeting  
Roland "Beaver" Jutras Recreation Building  
Minutes of October 6, 2010 7:00 PM  
(Approved)

Attendees: Tina Kriebel, Chair; Doug Thompson, Vice-Chair; Paula Stewart; Andy Dunbar; Jeffrey M. King, Recreation Director; Lisa A. Koziell-Betz, Program Coordinator; Erin Lyons, Tom Bishop and Jim Sullivan in support of the Monadnock Challenge Triathlon; Peter McLaughlin and Scott Gutwein in support of the all-purpose pavilion.

- I) Meeting called to order: at 7:00 PM by Tina.
- II) Monadnock Challenge Series Report: Erin Lyons is the coordinator of the Monadnock Challenge Series Sprint Triathlon. She was invited to provide a post-event report to the PRC and answer the PRC's questions regarding the event.
  - A) The last time Erin met with the PRC was in June of 2009. A portion of the triathlon revenue is used for Support4Sports Scholarships for kids in need. The application process is described online. Basically, applicants need to write an essay.
  - B) Paula expressed her concern about not seeing any financial numbers to validate/nullify the importance of the PRD's participation is the sponsoring of such an event.
  - C) Erin does not understand the request, on behalf of the PRC, to delve into the financial books of the triathlon.
  - D) It was explained to Erin that the PRD is part of a municipality, reporting to the tax payers of Peterborough. As such, anything the PRD is involved in must be open to the public. While the PRC likes the event, the lack of numbers as well as other issues promised is making PRC members uncomfortable.
  - E) It was expressed that the triathlon is going through a lot of development right now and she does not want to disclose any financials numbers or plans at this time.
    - 1) After 2 years of running the program, PRC members were dismayed there were no concrete numbers to report.
    - 2) A 501(c)(3) non-profit has not yet been established.
    - 3) Tax returns have not been filed.
      - a. Erin believes that she falls short of the amount needed to make it reportable to the IRS.
      - b. Erin says there is documentation somewhere if the IRS does inquire.
    - 4) A board of directors has yet to be established. Erin did not know if there would be one or two boards of directors overseeing the triathlon and/or the Support4Sports fund.
    - 5) Doug reiterated that the PRC was looking for the same information that Erin said she would provide 1.5 years ago. This has not happened to date. He felt this request and the acceptance of this request were pretty clear..."black and white".
      - a) Where is the 2 signature checking acct?

b) Where is it in the honoring of the agreement that Peterborough taxpayers have access to half of the scholarship awards?

F) Further conversation ensued about the accountability to the taxpayers. The PRC agreed to support the triathlon on short notice, yet the reciprocal agreements have not been demonstrated by Erin.

G) \$500 was awarded to a Peterborough resident recently. This award came out of the 2009 monies.

H) In 2009, there were about 143 participants. In 2010.....about 186 people. At a rough payment of \$45/head...it is estimated that \$8,370 was accumulated through participants. Of the outlay, ½ is covered by sponsorship and ½ is covered by the Fund.

I) The committee governing the scholarship side should meet every 2 months. There was some confusion as to how many times this group has met to date.

J) Monies for the scholarship piece come out of the savings side of the Monadnock Challenge Series checkbook.

K) Andy expressed his desire for Erin and the board to seek financial support from other town governments. At first Erin did not see the reasoning of the request. Later, Andy explained that other Towns are benefitting from the event and the expense of helping run the event should not be carried solely by the Peterborough taxpayers.

L) It was asked if anyone is receiving a salary from the triathlon. Erin's answer was "not yet".

M) There is the ability to take registration enrollee's information to make a demographic picture regarding where folks come from.

N) It was expressed by Andy that he would not support the Triathlon if other towns are not approached to contribute to the event. After all, it is the "Monadnock" Challenge Series. Paula expressed her lack of support if financial figures are not presented the next time they meet...figures that are clear, accurate and accountable.

O) Tina would like Erin to come back and address all of the above concerns – in a thorough and concise manner - in December or January. Doug said that he wants to be comfortable with what she presents. Paula wants to see an organizational budget that should not be hard to produce because it is a requirement for 501(c)(3) process.

P) Andy expressed that due diligence needs to occur on behalf of fundraising and accountability.

Q) Maybe some in-kind services could be provided by other towns towards this event.

R) The dual signature check book needs to be established by the next time they meet as well as having a paper document – to be signed - saying that Peterborough residents (in need) receive ½ of the money allotted each year to scholarships.

III) Minutes: The minutes of September 1, 2010 were accepted with 1 minor grammatical change on page 2. Doug moved to accept the minutes, Paula seconded. Unanimous approval.

III) ConVal Cal Ripken: Paula moved to accept the issuing of the plaque and verbiage used. Doug seconded. Unanimous approval.

- IV) Program Report: There were several items addressed in the Program Report.
- A) Tina would like to see a breakdown of PAYS responsibilities covered by the PRD this year – fall 2010 as defined by the MOU.
  - B) Doug asked if the PRD pick up of the PAYS responsibilities is accurately reflected in the 80 to 90%. Lisa, the program coordinator, thought the percentage range was pretty accurate.
  - C) Andy wondered why a long-standing tradition such as the Window Painting Contest is being considered as a program that may be discontinued. Jeff offered that this program does not draw a crowd as it used to. A few Girl Scout troops want to participate...but it is no longer a large family event as it once was.
  - D) Bobcat Basketball could be severely compromised this year due to the removal of the lower hoop the PRD and PTO purchased several years ago. These hoops made the basket lower for the younger kids. There was thought of moving the younger kids to SMS, but practice cannot be held during the week there due to SMS's basketball practices going until 7pm or so.
    - 1) Due to the sudden development of taking the hoops down, Tina would like Jeff to look into the cost associated with putting up adjustable hoops. Maybe, if the price is reasonable, something can be done between the PTO, school and PRD.
    - 2) Jeff is estimating about \$50,000...but will get better concrete numbers.
  - E) The Wine Appreciation course drew a fair amount of debate. This class is almost booked. Andy felt strongly that it is not a municipalities' business to offer such courses especially since we serve children. Tina and Paula thought it reached out to a different population that the PRD currently does not serve and wine appreciation is more educationally based than drinking based.
  - F) Jeff offered that it is the PRD's mission to provide the best possible recreation experience for *all* the resident of Peterborough. There is always going to be someone against something.
  - G) Doug sided with Andy regarding the advertising style used to promote such a program. He did not feel the program itself was bad, but felt the verbiage of the program needs to be different. Doug proposed that any wine appreciation verbiage (and pictures) be approved by the PRC before publication, and that the advertisement is not placed near children's programming. This was suggested after Andy made a motion to ban activities that use alcohol. No one seconded Andy's motion. Andy seconded Doug's motion. Unanimous approval.
- V) CIP Report: The PRC is presenting the same three projects they presented before the CIP in 2009/10.....the pool, the pavilion for multi-use and multi-use athletic fields.
- A) Peter McLaughlin introduced himself along with Scott Gutwein, both Peterborough residents, as being in support of the multi-purpose pavilion being proposed. Mr. McLaughlin is the ConVal High School Varsity Hockey Coach. He played ice hockey for Harvard University and was drafted by the NHL.

- B) Tina proposed that the PRC put its emphasis on the pool and the pavilion upgrade/development until there is a viable location to put the multi-use fields.
- C) Doug proposed to put the multi-use pavilion and the pool together in one bond in order to complete both projects. Interest rates are at an all time low and construction bids are coming in very low due to the lack of demand.
- D) Discussion about the multi-purpose pavilion:
1. The CIP request for the multi-purpose pavilion would be the foundation to leverage fundraising for the majority of the proposed cost of the pavilion.
  2. The pavilion's use would be multi-faceted....use as an open air, covered ice skating rink in the winter. Other uses could be a PRD ice skating program, for dog or car shows, farmer's markets, rent it out for weddings etc.
  3. The roof would be critical for all of the possible use options. The rest would be open with a concrete or paved surface under the roof. It is proposed that it be big enough to accommodate an official size hockey rink. It was suggested a fence be place around the pavilion's perimeter for security reasons.
  4. The PRC would like more concrete numbers for this project. The last projected estimate was done a couple years ago with the help of various town employees. Jeff will work on this with the help of Mr. McLaughlin.
  5. It was mentioned that the old hockey boards are still at the Clark Memorial Arena in Winchendon and the rink could be built through used equipment and donations, but a financial base needs to be developed first.
  6. Mr. McLaughlin spoke of the many benefits of a covered pavilion. He was very energized and excited about the possibility of building the pavilion, particularly because of the multi-use aspect of the project. No one else locally has a similar facility of that size.
  7. Folks pay a lot of money for ice time. Ex: \$210/hour, \$150 to run a practice.
  8. Andy felt that this pavilion proposal is not right for the taxpayers of Peterborough. He felt it should be presented before the school board as a school necessity. That way, the cost is spread out through all the towns.
  9. Other folks argued that the pavilion would be multi-purpose...not just ice hockey.
  10. Non-residents would pay more for the use of the facility.
  11. Mr. McLaughlin took offense to Andy's comments and viewpoint for he believes that Andy is shooting down the project before it can even be looked at, let alone in a positive light. There are many positive aspects, he believes, to such a project.

12. Mr. McLaughlin would be willing to spearhead the development of a 501(c)(3) for fundraising/grant writing for the pavilion.
  13. Despite Mr. McLaughlin's offer regarding the 501(c)(3) and the positive aspects that he saw coming out of the pavilion's development, Andy thought it was a positive project, but he was concerned that it would be an unnecessary tax burden to the Peterborough taxpayers.
  14. Many opposed Andy's viewpoint.
  15. Doug reminded everyone that hockey was just 1 season/1 facet of the "big picture" use of the facility. There are so many more possible uses of a facility like this.
  16. It was agreed that a business plan needs to be developed. What would be the proposed size? Location?
  17. Staffing concerns were expressed. The budget for staffing would be built into the rental cost. The rental fee could include set up, clean up etc.
  18. Mr. McLaughlin said that he would spearhead this also but he would not do it if the PRC would not give the pavilion project a shot...not if it was going to be viewed as "DOA".
  19. The committee, with the exception of Andy, was open to the exploration of the pavilion's potential.
  20. Tina asked if Jeff could put this concept out to the NH recreation directors to get their input. Jeff said that he would.
- E) Paula asked if this project would conflict with the Armory and the possible use of monies. Since it was mandated by the Select Board that no town monies be used for the Armory....bonding the money for Armory use cannot happen. There would be no conflict.
- F) Tina interjected that of the three CIP items proposed; we have the facilities currently to address two of the items.....the pool and the pavilion. The bundling of the two projects and pay for it via a bond would make the most sense.
- G) Bob Lambert asked how many towns have a similar structure as the proposed pavilion project. Jeff could not think of any in the local area. He would have to do some research on it.
- H) The process was explained as a request coming from the PRC, going to CIP for their input (November 9<sup>th</sup>), upon acceptance, the proposal would go to the budget committee and then to the BOS.
- I) Andy needed to leave the meeting early.
- J) Tina made a motion to leave the multi purpose field development as it currently stands. Doug seconded it. Unanimous approval.
- K) Mr. McLaughlin reiterated that he was at the meeting as an impassioned resident that feels the pavilion would be a huge asset for the Town.

- L) Tina asked Doug if he could represent the PRC when the bond request goes through its various committees. Doug said “yes” as long as he has hard numbers to present.
  - M) The future of the field development project is not clear, and Doug proposed the bundling of the two projects.
- VI) Director’s Report: Tina went to Ms. Brenner, the Town Administrator, for clarification regarding the Armory and some work being performed. The PRC is viewing the opening of the Armory as being a long-term project. With this said, Tina asked why some minor work was being done and why was the food pantry opened. There is cleaning work that can be done now and if the PRC didn’t want the work done, she would remove the work orders. Both agreed that work would be done but communication needed to be better between other departments and the PRC.
- VII) Revolving Fund Report: Nothing noted or questioned.
- VIII) Executive session: Motion was made by Tina to go into executive session (RSA 91-A:3 II(a) ) for personnel matters at 9:12pm. Doug seconded. Unanimous approval. Motion to seal the Minutes was made by Tina at 9:24pm. Doug seconded. Unanimous approval.
- IX) Adjournment: Tina moved to move out of executive session and adjourn the meeting at 9:28pm, Doug seconded it. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Betz, PRC Minute Taker 10-11-10.