

Peterborough Recreation Committee (PRC) Meeting
Roland "Beaver" Jutras Recreation Building
Minutes of April 13, 2016, 7:00 PM
Approved

Attendees: Andrew Dunbar, Chair; Howard Russell, Vice Chair; Stacey Kolk, Secretary;
Stacey Howarth; Mary Kaye Lake, guest;
Jeffrey M. King, Recreation Director; Lisa Koziell-Betz, Program Coordinator; Lauren Martin, Minute Taker

- I) Meeting called to order: Andy called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
- II) Approval of Minutes: A quorum of PRC members who had attended the March meeting was not present, so those minutes could not be approved. They will be reviewed next month.
- III) Guest- Ms. Mary Kaye Lake re: Peterborough Wave Swim Club (PWSC) practice schedule:
- a. Peterborough resident Mary Kaye Lake explained that she had come before the PRC in 2014, when the time for PWSC practices changed from starting at 4:30pm to starting at 6:30pm. After she asked Jeff to review how the decision came about to change the swim team practices, Jeff remarked that with the renovation of the pool, the pool became more of a destination. Previously, kids would swim in the afternoon but the pool had not been a fun place for parents to hang out. After the renovation, families wanted to stay at the pool longer and Jeff received complaints from the public who wanted the pool to stay open in the late afternoon/early evening. Jeff noted that in the past the pool would close to the public from 4:30 – 5:30 for swim team, and reopen to the public from 5:30 – 7:30. The decision was made to move the swim team practice to 6:30 – 8:30 to offer them a two hour block for practice and to remove the need to ask patrons to leave the pool at 4:30. Jeff said this change was well received by the public, though Mary Kaye will explain that it may have had a negative effect on the swim team, particularly for younger members. In review, Jeff stated that PWSC has three hours of practice time: 7:30 – 8:30am, and 6:30 – 8:30pm. The morning practice times did not change except on Friday, when they were moved to 6:30 – 7:30am to allow our maintenance staff time to clean the pool.
 - b. Mary Kaye explained that swim team practice goes through the end of July. She comes before the PRC tonight to follow up with some data and leave the situation in their hands.
 - c. Pointing out that the summer PWSC swimming program is a feeder program for their swim team, Mary Kaye explained that in 2014 they had 66 summer swimmers, but after the change in practice time they only registered 39 for the summer program. In 2015 they had 35 summer swimmers.
 - d. Mary Kaye remarked that the swim team appreciates everything provided to them and that the pool renovation has been well received despite some issues. Jeff explained that during planning for the renovation, swim team coach Dick Cuddihee met with the pool architect, and Jeff thought they were on the same page. By the time Jeff found out they were not, it was too late to make changes. The lane lines built into the pool are apparently too narrow for racers doing certain strokes, but to adjust would require moving eye holes and repainting the lines, which would be extremely expensive.
 - e. Mary Kaye continued with more data, stating that usually younger summer swimmers convert into winter swimmers. In 2014 they had 35 winter swimmers but in 2015 they only had 17 winter swimmers. If things do not change, she remarked, this will be their last winter swimming.
 - f. Andy questioned whether the drop has anything to do with the overall drop in the student population in our area. Mary Kaye said that statistically she is not aware of a large drop in the past two years. Jeff commented that the ConVal School District is hemorrhaging students to the tune of 100 per year, and Andy noted that there is a general population drop. Jeff said we are seeing this reflected in everything as participation in all of our programs is down. Mary Kaye offered to get the data on changes in school enrollment. Stacey K. noted that at Peterborough

Elementary School (PES) enrollment has been the same for four years, plus or minus approximately 15 students, but for five years earlier there had been a drop. The big dip, she said, is now in the middle school and moving into the high school. Jeff and Stacey did say, however, that the other towns in the district continue to decrease. Andy asked what percentage of the swim team population comes from towns other than Peterborough. Mary Kaye replied that she can get that information.

- g. Mary Kaye asked for the time of day with the lowest attendance at the pool. Jeff replied that we have statistics now on the times each person arrives, but we do not have exit figures because we don't require people to pass by the counter when they leave so we're not able to scan their passes. Last season overall from 4:00pm – 6:00pm we had 868 arrivals to the pool. We do not have a way to count those who came earlier in the day and remained through those hours, but we averaged about 18 swimmers a day who arrived during that time. Considering others who would have arrived earlier and remained during that time, Jeff guessed that on average there might have been 25 – 30 swimmers at the pool on weekdays from 4:00 – 6:00pm.
- h. Mary Kaye affirmed that for the past two years she has asked to have the swim team practice times changed. At this point, she said she only wants to present the data and leave it up to the PRC. Andy responded that the PRC is required to serve the general population and they need to strike a balance, but they do not want to see the Wave swim team fold. When he remarked that the Wave already has three hours of practice time, Jeff pointed out that they are not asking for more time but to have the practice time return to their former schedule. Mary Kaye clarified that the morning hour is fine and should remain the same. In an ideal world, she would like to see swim team practice times as follows: 7:30 – 8:30am for ages 11+; 4:30 – 5:30pm for under seven years old; and 6:30 – 7:30pm for 11+. Children who fall between ages seven and 11 can choose between the available times based on their swimming experience.
- i. Andy remarked that the PRC realizes our facilities serve an area wide population made up of approximately 50% Peterborough residents and 50% other area town residents. The PRC, he noted, is responsible to Peterborough taxpayers for how money is spent. Mary Kaye noted that she is a Peterborough resident and pays Peterborough taxes as well. She departed at 7:23pm.
- j. There was general agreement that the current pool hours are ideal for the general public, though not for the PWSC. Jeff commented that the swim practice time change probably affected PWSC to a certain extent, but from an operational standpoint, of the 868 attendees to the pool during 4:00 – 6:00pm, 711 were residents and 157 were non-residents. Our resident taxpayers are coming to the pool after work. Stacey H. commented that she has been at Adams Pool a lot, when the public needed to leave at 4:30 for swim team and after, and both she and Stacey K. agreed that 4:30 is very early to have to dismiss a crowd on a hot day. Jeff stated that he tried suggesting a compromise time proposal last year but the PRC rejected it. Andy noted that when people come to the pool they have to pay, so he hates having to send them away.
- k. Andy remarked that some things just evolve with participation changing over time, like tennis. He cautioned that we should be careful about assuming that the practice time change resulted in swim team attendance drop, because if people really wanted to do this they would participate regardless of the time. Jeff referred to a Southwest Regional Planning Commission study that showed a 14% population loss of children under the age of 15 and of young families (ages 24 – 39) in the area between 2000 and 2010, stating that even if PES is holding steady, a lot of other towns in the area may be continuing to lose population. Andy agreed, stating that other elementary schools are at half (or less) their former student capacity.
- l. After considerable discussion, the PRC decided to leave the pool hours and PWSC practice hours as they currently stand. Jeff thanked Andy for his offer to respond to Mary Kaye.
- m. Jeff remarked that a positive aspect of preparing for this discussion was his opportunity to review pool figures, noting that the pool usage fee paid each season by PWSC more than covers the operating costs. Also, working with Eversource, he was also able to isolate how much electricity the pool uses and how much it costs us to operate in the summer.

IV) Director's Report:

- a. Budget: The budget article was moved to the warrant for the Deliberative Session.
- b. Education: Jeff received information today from the Town's I.T. Coordinator about sending Lisa to an Adobe InDesign class. Jeff wants to do our own publishing in-house, so now we just need to become fluent in desktop publishing. Jeff feels our current marketing methods are working pretty well.
- c. Legislation: House Bills 1687 and 1688 mentioned in previous PRC meetings were voted down. The legislators on the committee said if members of recreation departments had not testified they probably would have voted in favor of the bills because they had not fully realized the ramifications of their passage.
- d. Peterborough Community Center (PCC):
 - a. Jeff exclaimed that our summer maintenance workers are back, and they have washed and waxed the PCC floors. This needs to be done approximately every other month but we have not had the manpower to do it more than every six months. In cleaning out the PCC janitor's closet they found leftover tile, which they have just finished installing over the painted concrete floor in the bathrooms of the Arts and Crafts Building. During the process they discovered a carpenter ants infestation. J.P. Pest will come back in mid-May to treat for the carpenter ants because Jeff does not want the area treated in July and August when we have so many kids around.
 - b. Jeff received an advertising proposal from Convenient M.D. Jeff thinks it is a good proposal, but the Town does not currently have an advertising policy so Jeff is talking with Town Administrator, Rodney Bartlett, about coming up with something for the Town. Convenient M.D. has proposed putting a long advertising banner over the windows in the PCC gym and a big sign in the corner. This seems fine to Jeff since we currently have a tarp blocking light in the gym windows and unattractive pipes in the corner of the gym. They would like to put a double-sided banner between the pool and playground, and one on the outfield at Ecco Field, which Jeff thinks is all right. Finally, they would like to put a large banner on the tennis court fence, which Jeff does not like. Jeff spoke with Laura Gingras to get the Monadnock Hospital perspective on Convenient M.D. The hospital understands that Convenient M.D. serves a purpose for urgent care and for camp/school physicals when the wait for an appointment with a primary care provider would take too long and that they need to find a way to compete. In exchange for the advertising, Convenient M.D. had proposed paying the PRD \$2,500/year, which could be renewed annually. Stacey K. asked if this decision is up to the PRD or the Town. Jeff responded that since there is no policy, it's not clear. Jeff said Concord and Dover are doing something similar and they receive \$5,000 - \$8,000/year, but they're larger communities. Stacey K. asked if the revenue would go to the general fund or the revolving fund and Jeff responded that it would be a little of both. For the signage in the PCC, we would put it in the revolving fund to offset PCC operating costs. For the signage at the park, however, we would put that into the general fund to offset general operating costs. Jeff thinks we need to come up with a policy that is comprehensive town-wide, so that the BOS won't someday come up with a policy that conflicts with ours. Jeff would like the Selectmen to approve any policy we adopt. Jeff will work with the Town administration to come up with a policy proposal for the Town, and then based on that will come up with a more streamlined proposal for Convenient M.D. Jeff also noted that this policy could include Cal Ripken signage at the ball fields, bringing it all under one umbrella.
 - c. Jeff stated that thanks to PRD maintenance supervisor Roland Patten, we sold the stainless steel sink from behind the PCC for \$250.
- e. Ice Rink: The ice rink liner is still in the Adams parking lot. We have been waiting for the weather to allow it to dry out as much as possible before putting it away. Moving the liner is a big project and we would like help from ConVal hockey players, but they cannot arrive until after school and the Town's buildings and grounds workers finish for the day at 3:30.
- f. Youth Baseball: Jeff commented that Cal Ripken has completed their registrations. Yesterday the Peterborough Cal Ripken President, Bill Theriault, brought us a \$1,000 check. They still owe us

\$2,200: \$1,200 from last season and \$1,000 for this coming season. They intend to give us \$1,200 before April 23rd, when they expect to have their team sponsorship secured. Because they have a poor track record of paying their bills, Andy requested that we obtain a written memorandum of understanding of their payment agreement. Jeff said he doesn't have a problem with drafting something like that, but is concerned that it may be unenforceable. If they don't stick to the agreement, what recourse do we have? We're certainly not going to have the police tell little kids they can't play baseball on the fields and Jeff is not going to stand on the pitcher's mound and tell kids they have to go play somewhere else because they haven't paid their bill. To do so would be a public relations nightmare. So, without the ability to enforce such an agreement, Jeff wonders what the point it of having one in the first place?

- g. Other: Stacey H. asked if there are any plans to make the water fountain at the PCC workable. Lisa commented that the problem is with the fountain, which needs to be replaced. Stacey H. and Stacey K. both agreed that sports players using the PCC gym need a good water source and asked to have fountains priced out. If possible, Jeff would like to get the type that accommodates water bottles, and he added that we would like the same thing in the hallway near the public restrooms off Union Street. Stacey H. and Stacey K. asked to have the PCC fountain addressed first, since the building is kept locked so a fountain would be protected from vandalism. Jeff thinks the best location at the PCC might be in the hallway by the restrooms.

V) Program Report:

- a. Pickleball: Lisa is encouraging a transition where the participants will run the sport themselves, setting up the nets and making sure balls and paddles are out. Currently, PRD staff has to be there three times a week to set up, remain during play, and then take down everything. Lisa would like to chain a metal storage bin to the tennis fence and let one of the Pickleball regulars hold a key and receive a program discount. Lisa plans to keep the current \$2 fee consistent through the summer, since we had to invest in equipment for this program and during winter play at the PCC they are not paying the full rate needed to support PCC programs. Lisa will have to set up some beginner-only clinics since many of the regular players are becoming quite good.
- b. Ballroom: This program is continuing strong.
- c. Lacrosse: Registrations jumped up to 76 at the last minute.
- d. Girls' Softball: We did not have enough participants for a Peterborough 12U team, but Mark Bemont will run a combined team with Antrim, New Ipswich and Peterborough for this age group. Jeff pointed out that this team will be compiled from the only interested girls from Mascenic (three towns) and ConVal District (nine towns). Girls' lacrosse only has a U15 team, so it is clearly not competing with softball. It was agreed that a certain amount of kids are sticking with soccer or AAU basketball year-round.
- e. Lisa reported that we are no longer sponsoring Tae Kwon Do. Our former instructors, the Lamys, have become a private business. Stacey K. wondered if we would like to sponsor some other martial art. Lisa replied that we do not want to compete with the Lamys, although the seniors are extremely interested in Tai Chi.
- f. Senior Program Update from Gloria Schultz: Jeff remarked that Gloria is doing a great job introducing new opportunities at the right pace, and that senior programs are growing. This is one segment of our population that is increasing. Lisa added that today Gloria reported that five new people have expressed interest in three different senior programs.

VI) Scoutmaster Report: Jeff summarized that the written Scoutmaster Report explains how busy Troop 8 has been. They are about to announce the new Scoutmaster to replace Chris Edscorn, who will be moving out of the area in July. The Scouts have outgrown Shieling Forest and now have a new meeting location at the upper hall of the Town House.

VII) Revolving Fund: Jeff reported that the PCC is not doing too badly. It had been running approximately \$3,000 in the red, but considering that these winter expenses include heating costs, that is not too bad. We also had the added expenses last month of building the new office at the PCC. If we took those office expenses out of the mix, the PCC would probably break even. Senior programs

do not make a ton of money but each time people participate it adds up and it is important to have income coming in during the day. Andy reminded everyone to email Jeff if they have ideas about fundraising ideas or programs. Jeff said we have to be constantly on the lookout for new trends. Stacey K. wondered if a course for seniors on how to use their iPads or smart phones might be appealing. Jeff said the library might have something like that and we could partner with them, especially because they will be moving. Stacey K. added the suggestion of an advanced course for seniors on using social media to see their family members on Facebook.

- VIII) Outstanding Balances Report: Lauren reviewed the written report on outstanding balances, noting that twelve certified letters were mailed in early March, leading to the collection thus far of \$980 of outstanding payments. One letter was signed for but has yielded no further response from that person and will need a strong response. We spent \$142 on these letters, but Andy pointed out that this was important for setting the precedent that the PRD expects people to pay their bills on time. Andy remarked that going forward we need to put in place safeguards so that overdue monies do not accrue like this. Jeff noted that people who applied for scholarships cannot participate until they pay their old bills. Andy affirmed that we are responsible to our taxpayers so we have to hold people accountable for their bills.
- IX) Other: Jeff remarked that we need to find a write-in candidate for Stacey K.'s upcoming position vacancy.
- X) Adjournment: Andy moved to adjourn the meeting. Howard seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm. Next meeting: Wednesday May 4th at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Martin, Minute Taker
April 19, 2016