

Peterborough Recreation Committee (PRC) Meeting
Roland "Beaver" Jutras Recreation Building
Minutes of March 4, 2015, 5:30 PM
Approved

Attendees: Paula Stewart, Chair; Stacey Kolk, Vice Chair; Andrew Dunbar; Bob Lambert, Budget Committee/PRD Liaison; Judy Chandler, Monadnock Valley Patriots; Jeffrey M. King, Recreation Director; Lisa Koziell-Betz, Program Coordinator; Lauren Martin, Minute Taker

- I) Meeting called to order: Paula called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.
- II) Approval of Minutes: The January minutes were unable to be approved without a quorum of those who had attended that meeting.
- III) Guest- Judy Chandler, Monadnock Valley Patriots:
- A. Jeff invited Judy Chandler of the Monadnock Valley Patriots (MVP) to describe the relationship they are seeking with the PRD. Judy stated that the MVP is associated with Special Olympics of NH and is comprised of athletes aged 21 – 54, who used to participate on the ConVal Special Olympics team but are no longer students at ConVal High School. Special Olympics is their parent organization, providing insurance and holding their bank account. This does not preclude MVP from becoming a part of the PRD, however, which is the reason Judy comes before the PRC tonight.
- B. Fourteen MVP athletes just returned from the Winter Games, where they participated in snowshoeing, cross country skiing and alpine skiing. They now begin practicing basketball with "unified play" (teams comprised of special athletes and their partners). Summer games encompass track and field events including running, throwing and bocce. They will break over the bulk of the summer, and then resume in the fall.
- C. Jeff asked how many of the 25 current MVP athletes are from Peterborough and Judy replied that of all the towns in the area, Peterborough has the highest percentage of MVP athletes. Jeff clarified that MVP is looking for a relationship that is similar to the PRD's relationship with Scouting. MVP will retain their own checkbook, but by having the PRD as a sponsor they could utilize PRD resources. He pointed out that the PRD would benefit by having a program for adults with different abilities. Jeff has spoken with the Keene recreation director about the Keene Recreation Department's relationship with Special Olympics. Jeff stated that this relationship would not necessarily cost us money but we would be helping to facilitate things for MVP, like providing meeting space, helping them with marketing, and providing some recreational resources like sports equipment, a field or the basketball court. Responding to questions from the PRC, Judy confirmed that the PRD would not take over registration and payment, and that as part of Special Olympics of NH they are a non-profit. Judy described that the desire to associate with the PRD stemmed from the fact that Peterborough is where the largest group of their athletes reside and is the most central location to the group. She said if someone asked them where MVP is from, they'd respond, "Peterborough."
- D. Jeff stated that he is looking for the PRC to endorse formalizing a relationship with MVP so we can bring them in as an avenue of adult programming. Stacey questioned how we would deal with it if MVP could not have what they requested, like use of a PRD van. Judy replied, "If we ask and it's not available, so be it." Jeff responded that this has happened with the scouts and they understand that PRD programs take precedence over the chartered Scouting program. Clarifying that MVP would not technically be a PRD program, Jeff pointed out the similarity to the PRD's relationship with The Place To Go's 3 on 3 basketball tournament- we endorse the event and help advertise it but it is not a PRD event. Judy stated that PRD or PRC members are invited to join the MVP leadership team. It was pointed out that the PRD has in-house programs and ancillary programs that we sponsor, which all use the PRD vans and incur direct costs. Jeff
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acknowledged that the ancillary groups fill the gas tank but do not pay per mile, but there has been fairly minimal usage of PRD vehicles by ancillary groups so he has not found it to be excessive. In addition, the scouts do service projects which benefit the PRD, saving us money. After Jeff affirmed that there is a formal, signed agreement between the scouts and the PRD, Paula asked if Jeff could draft an agreement based on a Special Olympics contract or based on the model used by Keene Recreation. Jeff clarified that tonight he just wanted to ask if the PRC liked the concept, and now they will work on a formal agreement. Paula and Stacey stated that this is a great idea and that we will get good PR for supporting this good organization. It was also mentioned that the PRC is charged with watching spending for Peterborough taxpayers and if Jeff offers facilities to other groups that may not be in the best interest of Peterborough taxpayers. Jeff noted that a relationship with MVP will provide a whole arm of programming that we do not have to reinvent since it is already in place. Judy will contact Special Olympics of NH to ask about existing contracts with sponsoring organizations.

IV) Director's Report:

- A. PRC calendar: Jeff called attention to the 2015 PRC calendar handout, which has been posted at the PRD and in the Town House.
- B. Budget:
 1. Although Jeff had been told he did not need to attend the Feb. 17th budget analysis meeting, he said he now wishes he had attended. The facilities supervisor position came under fire. Originally Jeff had proposed that this position become year-round at eight hours/week being funded by the operational budget and 12 hours/week being funded from the Revolving Fund. The position was cut entirely from the operating budget, however. All funding for this position must now come from the Revolving Fund and Jeff acknowledged that he is not sure if he can find the money for it.
 2. Jeff pointed out that he had already agreed with the Town Administrator to cut the bathhouse supervisor position to compensate for adding the facilities supervisor position. When the facilities supervisor funding was cut, however, the bath house supervisor funding was not reinstated. Jeff expressed frustration that two positions were essentially cut, instead of one. The Town budget is up 3.9% overall and all Town departments have suffered cuts.
 3. It was questioned why the cost of Senior Lunch has risen from \$5 to \$7. Jeff explained that in the past the fee had been \$5 yet the lunches were actually costing \$7 per person. Now the costs for lunches has been raised to \$10 per person. Tony Reagan from Bowling Acres has been the caterer and he says he notified lunch coordinator Ann Lessard about the price increase last fall, though the PRD has only just become aware of the change. Andy expressed surprise that we do not have a contract with Bowling Acres for the lunches, but Jeff noted that this has been a handshake deal. Jeff recommended to Ann Lessard that she raise the lunch fee to at least \$8, but she raised it to \$7 and plans to find alternate funding. Ann is currently soliciting ads for a placemat fundraiser. Ann is also soliciting bids from other caterers in an attempt to bring down the overall cost of the meals to under \$10.
 4. Andy requested that senior programs be included in future Program Reports. Lisa replied that she thought Jeff had asked Senior Programming Specialist Terry Reeves to write them.
- C. Peterborough Community Center (PCC):
 1. Daddy Daughter Dance: Jeff described that the Daddy-Daughter Dance this year was very good. The dance had been held in the past at the Town House, but the PCC seemed to work very well as the new venue.
 2. Kitchen Renovation:
 - a. Jeff remarked that the kitchen renovation is basically completed. PRD staff have been trained on the Ansul system which automatically puts out cooking

fires. The gas company will be asked to offer their opinion on whether stove pilot lights should remain on at all times. Andy asked if there are carbon monoxide detectors in the building. Lisa replied in the negative, adding that the PCC is not hard-wired to the fire department. Jeff noted that the building is porous and that gas will have an odor. Jeff described that the fryer has a gas shut off placed in back and that PRD maintenance worker Roland Patten recommends adding an extension pipe to bring the gas shut off where it can be reached more easily. Jeff noted that the fire department and code enforcer have already inspected and approved the kitchen. After the appliances are moved in we will schedule the state inspection.

b. The kitchen opening is scheduled as follows: Friday March 27th -reception for donors catered by Aylmer Given; and Sunday March 29th- public opening. The Cornucopia Project came up with a budget and ran it past Town Administrator Pam Brenner. Jeff is not sure how he will find money for this but he will. Stacey commented that she wished we could make the public opening more enticing. Paula suggested raffling off a kitchen rental. Jeff noted that the kitchen furniture and appliances have been stored during the renovation in a rented trailer pod. They now need to be moved back into the kitchen, but the trailer is surrounded by large amounts of snow. The Department of Public Works intends to dig out the trailer next week, when we can then plan to have the aluminum tables steam cleaned.

c. Bob questioned if the seniors could use the newly renovated kitchen to prepare their own Senior Lunch meals on site for less money than it would take to have them catered. Jeff stated that he would be totally open to that.

D. Ice rinks: Jeff remarked that the ice rinks are open and are doing well. Two great hockey events were held during February vacation with approximately twenty kids each day, despite frigid temperatures.

E. Peterborough Area Youth Soccer (PAYS):

1. Jeff has met with PAYS president Eric Burbank, to resolve the past four youth soccer seasons. It has been determined that the PRD owes PAYS \$12,487.24. Paula said if the PRC approves this check, she would like to ask Jeff to not let the figure get this high again. Stacey questioned if we have his money available. Jeff replied that we do have this money available, and that this check covers four seasons and is not any different from in other years. He stated that he would be able to write checks to PAYS more frequently if he and Eric could get their schedules in sync.

2. Stacey motioned to approve writing this check to PAYS for \$12,487.24. Paula seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Lacrosse: Jeff mentioned that lacrosse registration has begun but he is frustrated that the SAU has not yet approved his promotional flyer to go home with students.

V) Program Report:

A. Lisa reported that it has been very busy but revenues are down.

B. Andy requested a report on overdue balances. Jeff and Lisa replied that we have been straight out and will update the PRC when we have free time.

C. Lisa reported that indoor soccer begins this Saturday, Stroll and Bowl begins this Thursday, and she has been working on the specifics for this summer's Playground Program and Summer Teen Challenge. Swimming lessons need to be revamped because the American Red Cross changed their program.

D. Jeff remarked that for basketball we had issues at Peterborough Elementary School. We did not hire gym monitors because there was no fee charged for the program this year. Lisa added that we had to offer a free program this year but the 3rd/4th graders wanted uniforms and referees. Lisa said she felt like the whole basketball season she was putting out fires. Stacey asked how the

coaches could have had such a hard time with a basic checklist of custodial duties. Lisa remarked that ConVal Athletic Director Mark Swasey admitted he did not emphasize this to his coaches, and the 3rd/4th grade teams had volunteer coaches.

E. Jeff noted that in the past, basketball was a real revenue source for us, so charging no fees this year will have a significant impact. Indoor soccer is being offered at 2008 pricing with no late fee and with coaches' kids playing free, yet registration numbers are very low.

F. After submitting a draft schedule to PAYS on February 17th, Lisa has just been asked to rearrange the schedule so as not to overlap with ConVal travel soccer practices. Jeff said he emailed Eric Burbank today to say we will agree to change the schedule, but we will keep all games at the PCC since we are trying to stay out of the schools as much as possible. Lisa expressed frustration that it is Wednesday night and the soccer season begins this Saturday, yet no one knows which teams they are on or what their schedules are. She knows we will be the ones taking the phone calls from parents who are upset about changes. Andy expressed feeling bad about hearing this frustration and offered to have the PRC do something, like speak to someone. Lisa said that might be a good idea when the season is over. Jeff said the situation may take care of itself if the ConVal Sports Association comes to fruition and takes over most of the youth sports in the area.

VI) Revolving Fund:

A. Jeff noted that we will see this format change in the next month. He explained that the large sheet is a cumulative report from 2003 on, and that the Finance Department has consolidated some of these programs. Some big revenue-producing programs that we have lost, like adult exercise, have been consolidated into "former programs."

B. Stacey asked if we have a replacement for adult exercise, but Lisa responded that we currently have no home for this program since the PCC gym is being used so much for soccer.

VII) Adjournment:

A. Paula explained that she must resign from the PRC effective immediately because of her teaching commitments. She has one year left on her term. Jeff explained that he has a replacement in mind- Larry Pimental. If the PRC recommends Larry's appointment, he can be appointed by the Selectmen for one year, to serve the remainder of Paula's term. Andy expressed thanks to Paula for her service to the PRC, stating that she will be missed.

B. Stacey motioned to close the meeting. Andy seconded. With unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday April 1st @ 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Martin, Minute Taker
March 9, 2015