

Peterborough Recreation Committee (PRC) Meeting
Roland "Beaver" Jutras Recreation Building
Minutes of May 3, 2017
Approved

Attendees: Andrew Dunbar, Chair; Heather McClusky, Vice Chair; Chris Kotula; Howard Russell, Jeffrey M. King, Recreation Director; Lisa Koziell-Betz, Program Coordinator and Minute Taker

- I. Call to Order: Andy called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Chris moved to approve the minutes as written, Heather seconded. Unanimously approved.
- III. Special Business from PRC Chair:
 - a. Andy recognized Howard Russel whose term is ending this month. He wanted to thank him for his time on the board. Jeff noted that it was for a total of 6 years.
 - b. Rest of the PRC thanked Howard.
- IV. Director's Report:
 - a. Budget:
 - i. Jeff noted that the spending freeze is still in effect, to the middle of the month anyway. He reported – at today's department head meeting – that the rec department has only spent \$1,200 since the freeze was instituted (excluding salaries and utilities). Any other expenses came out of the revolving fund.
 - ii. May 9th is when Town Elections are held.
 - iii. May 10th is Town Meeting. Jeff stated that the rec department has an article that will be voted upon – last item of discussion/vote. This is in regards to selling Cunningham Pond stickers to non-residents. He thought the meeting would last about 2 hours.

It was mentioned that SMS is having their Spring Concert that evening as well as there being several games. Andy proposed addressing the school board – via letter or in person – stating that such events take Peterborough taxpayers away from attending important town meetings and wondered if there was a way of postponing such events on Town meeting night in the future. Chris mentioned that he could understand the sports having the inability to reschedule due to the tightness of the season and games involving other towns. A motion was made by Andy that the school board be notified of the PRC concern, by a PRC member, in an attempt to minimize conflicts so more Peterborough residents can attend Town Meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.
 - b. Facilities:
 - i. Fields: Are all prepped and being played upon...baseball, softball and lacrosse (LAX). They are in good shape. Right now, we have the three maintenance guys doing all the work. They are also responsible for the practice field at The Well School and potentially the Dublin School if they need help. Jeff feels it is the least we can do considering the PRD is utilizing the Dublin School's field for LAX games.

- ii. It will cost about \$700 to repair the damage on the outdoor basketball court. We need to reach a point where the “fix” can sit and cure for three dry days and have over 50 degree evenings. The biggest challenge will be keeping the kids off the court.
 - iii. A new paint machine was recently purchased which will be more efficient as well as save on our carbon footprint – from the paint to the electric motor. While the paint boxes are a little more expensive, the paint is premixed so this should save money on labor expenses used to mix the painted needed in the old machine.
 - iv. The maintenance guys are going to hang a sign under the main sign at the community center where programs and events can be advertised. Andy asked if it was going to be lit. Jeff responded that it would not be right now. Looking forward, Andy requested that if lights are eventually used, the lights point downwards instead of upwards to minimize light pollution. Jeff agreed.
- c. The PRD received \$2,300 from the Cal Ripken organization with the expectation that the remaining \$700 will be paid next week. The interest accrued has been forgiven per Jeff and Rodney.
 - i. Cal Ripken expressed their intention of only placing signs on the Bishop Field fence. This opens the opportunity for the PRD to sell advertising space on Ecco Field’s fence.
 - ii. Andy asked if the PRD has any confidence in receiving the check or with the contact person for Peterborough. Jeff said he is hopeful, but not 100% confident.
 - iii. Jeff made mention that baseball participation numbers are down significantly – most likely due to lacrosse and spring soccer. Lacrosse is the second fastest growing sport in the US.
 - iv. Jeff also mentioned that the Cal Ripken equipment has been cleared out of the shed on PRD property. This space can now be used for PRD programs/equipment.
- d. Jeff summarized the recent activities of scouting. The cub scouts, the boy scouts and the fact the Venture Crew (the Crew program that the PRC recently voted to support) is taking off with their first Camporee this coming weekend.
- e. 84 cases of plastic ware were donated by DD Bean last week. They will be used by many different groups.
- f. Jeff made mention of the Farm Fresh 5 K Series being kicked off on May 17th. Andy raised his concern about a Facebook post that was made – on the PRD page – specifically referring to getting a beer after the race. Being a municipality, he felt it was inappropriate and insensitive to those who should not be drawn to alcohol. Jeff said it was done to promote a sponsor, Henniker Brewing Company as well as Bowling Acres Grille. It is supporting two local businesses.
 - i. Andy told a personal story about peer pressure and alcohol abuse. He wondered if this type of promotion was sending the wrong message.
 - ii. Jeff noted that while his concern was noted, this objection should have come up two months ago, when the race/farmer’s market/Bowling Acres

refreshments concept was brought before the board. These days, most races have a beer tent on the property. The PRD is not having one because Bowling Acres is right across the street and they can run their own promotions (such as the promotion with Henniker Brewery). The PRD will provide bagels and oranges.

- iii. Chris felt that mentioning the two organizations was okay. Howard agreed.
- iv. When Heather pulled it up the Facebook post to see what it said specifically, she agreed with Andy in as far as the PRD Facebook page does represent a municipality, but in the long run, she agreed with Howard and Chris. It was asked, however, if the verbiage could be toned down a bit where the information is there, but phrases like “go have a beer” be left out. Jeff agreed to do so.
- v. Jeff brought up the Powder Keg Beer Fest that the Exeter Recreation Department does every year with their Chamber of Commerce. It is a huge event. Popular and generates revenue. With rec departments tasked with generating revenue, a venue that includes beer should not be dismissed so easily.
- g. Bingo was mentioned next. The PRD has purchased a Bingo machine that selects balls with air pressure and the number/letter combo on that ball is lit on a board for all to see. Jeff needs to apply for a Bingo license for Bingo is state regulated. Monies raised would go towards the PCC. It would be run by the rec and the Peterborough Firemen’s Association. There are other organizations in Town that will hop on the chance to run Bingo as a revenue generator, so we need to be proactive in getting that license. The PRD learned this afternoon that the Kiwanis Club will no longer be renting the PCC due to cost saving measures. Hence, another reason to bring more revenue sources to counter PCC expenses.
- h. The Scouting report was accepted as written.

V. Program Report: Given the time, Lisa quickly went over the written report saying we were incredibly busy getting spring programs off the ground and planning for the summer programs. There were a few items of discussion:

- a. The Easter Egg Hunt was well attended and folks had a good time, for the most part. Despite have thousands of eggs, there will always be those who don’t get one or not enough and end up in tears. We try to give the Easter Bunny a huge basket of filled eggs for such an occasion. The PRC tried to figure out a way to run the hunt so tears were avoided.
 - i. Heather mentioned a few things. First, she felt not everyone got the gist of the rules (specifically the 10 eggs only, at first) due to the fact not everyone heard the announcer. The PRD does not have the extraneous money to invest in a great sound system. Even if we did, some of the kids would not listen anyway.
 - ii. It was recommended that we break the kids into two groups...small and big kids on different sides of the park. We tried that in 2016, but having a group of kids near the Bowerbird side of the park caused traffic flow concerns.

- iii. The question was asked if the younger kids could go first and then the older kids. Lisa said she thought of this but was afraid the younger kids would be trampled by the older kids.
 - iv. It was suggested two different times be established for two different age groups. While in theory it sounds good, there are times we just do not have the help and the practicality of laying out over 1000 eggs, two times, by just a couple of people, is unreasonable.
 - v. It was asked if it should be moved back to Adams Playground. While Adams provides a better opportunity to break up the kids, there are still tears because some kids are greedy and completely disregards the rules. Plus, having the Egg Hunt in Depot Square generates good will between the town and the merchants. It brings more visibility to all.
 - vi. There was no easy solution. Lisa said that if we want to eliminate tears, we should eliminate the event. We could have a gazillion eggs, but that still would not suffice.
 - vii. Regarding another Easter Egg event, Andy told the other PRC members that the PRD was asked if we could have the church's egg drop on the PRD fields. Jeff said no for a multitude of issues. When Jeff was asked if we will be approached for the same thing next year, Jeff said that he hopes he doesn't.
 - b. The new soccer program was mentioned...GPS-NH. The main reason for contracting with Global Premiere Soccer was to offer a program for toddlers, 3 to 5year old kids. A secondary program will be offered so GPS-NH can run a day program – something toddlers do not have the stamina or focus to do. The PRD will receive some money back for each registrant.
 - c. The fishing derby is May 13th. Jeff will be running it with the help from others.
 - d. Tennis was mentioned. Lisa broke out the two separate summer programs. 1) Taught by Greg Reardon, a professional instructor. This program will be offered for various levels and ages for a duration of 1 week. 2) Zach Kriebel will be offering beginning tennis lessons for little kids. He is offering three, 3 day sessions. It has been years since the PRD has been able to offer Tennis in the summer. We'll see what happens.
 - e. The senior report was accepted as written. One small note was made that some of the programs are being assessed and changed to fit current demands. For example, there is the probability of dropping Tai Chi and offering another no-monetary-win Bingo program.
- VI. Revolving Fund:
 - a. Jeff described that the PCC revenue and expenses are a concerning and are not where he would like them to be. In comparing expenses against revenues, the PCC is running at about a \$9,000 loss. Some of this is due to the tables that were recently purchased. They were needed, but cost a couple thousand dollars.
 - b. Jeff felt that the programming side of the revolving fund was doing fine.
 - i. Jeff still needs to do some journal entries for STC and PP from Summer 2016. This will bring in about \$15,000.

- ii. A journal entry also needs to be done to transfer money from human resources and place it into senior lunch. This will be about \$3,400. The \$3,400 gets applied to the PCC rent.
 - c. Andy asked if the pellet stove was saving money. Jeff felt it was.
 - d. Andy asked if we have seen any financial benefit from the solar panels. Jeff said that he did not think so – not at the PCC. The Town is not where they thought they would be, revenue wise, regarding the solar panel use.
 - e. It was asked what “closed programs” consisted of. Jeff said it consisted of past programs the PRD no longer offers.
 - f. Andy asked if a financial report can come out yearly in addition to the cumulative report. Jeff did not think so – he explained the board’s past requests and history with altering the current report. Plus, he explained, the report is usually 2 months late due to the closing of each month and the timing of the PRC meetings. Thus, he felt changing things again would not be beneficial.
 - g. When looking at the bottom line of the revolving fund, it was noted that the PRD has generated over \$2.2 million dollars in program revenue alone since 2003, while expending 2.08 million. This is quite a feat considering folks are not mandated to pay for programs, they pay because they want to participate in our programs. This is impressive.
- VII. Outstanding Balances Report:
- a. Lauren was not at the meeting so Jeff reiterated what was typed on Lauren’s report. In summary, \$12,062.80 has been collected since November 2015. Still outstanding is \$2,749.50.
 - b. It was noted that a new concern regarding some lacrosse payments just came to light and will be addressed.
 - c. All monies collected help boost the revolving fund for they are back payments on programs established in the revolving fund.
- VIII. Adjournment:
- a. Andy and the rest of the board thanked Howard once again for his commitment to the PRC.
 - b. Jeff brought brownies and a card for Howard.
 - c. Heather motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded. With unanimous approval, at 8:10pm the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be Wednesday June 7, 2017 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Koziell-Betz,

Minute Taker

May 3, 2017