

The September 19th meeting of the Portsmouth Recreation Board was held at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. The meeting was call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Chairperson Carl Diemer, Assistant Chairperson Paul Houlares, City Council Representative Laura Pantelakos, School Board Representative Kent LaPage, Kathy Siegel, Pat McCartney, Elaine Syracuse, Jackie Pitts, Tom Bolko, Harry Clark, Kathy Brown, D.P.W. Representative Everett Kern, Recreation Director Rus Wilson

Invited Guests: Peirce Island Committee Chairperson Hugh Jencks, Assistant Recreation Director Barry Foley, Pool Supervisor Greig Cronauer

Members Excused: City Council Representative Ken Smith

Actions/Discussions:

- Hugh Jencks brought out many discussions regarding Peirce Island, including a questionnaire next year for the patrons of the island to record their interests, their use of the park, etc. The Recreation Department fully expects to attend a fall intern process at UNH to explain the role of the intern and interview possible interns for next year. Part of the internship would include a research project, which could be partially or totally funded through the UNH Hamel Center for Undergraduate Research.
- Recreation staff gave a review of the summer programs and a preview of the upcoming fall programs. There were record numbers in all summer programs with waiting lists for many programs that are limited in space. Outdoor pool and boat launch numbers were outstanding, as well as summer camps and specialized programs.
- Board members were given a copy of the Field Usage/Condition Report which detailed the lack of fields in Portsmouth and the proposed number of fields that would be need to fill the current demand for fields in the city. The school department also feels the crunch of field space. The Middle School currently has no fields of its own to play on and many of their “large field” games have to be played out of town.
- Recreation Director Rus Wilson gave a report on the Athletic Director duties at Portsmouth High School. Rus will fill that role again this

year. The past year was very successful and the fall season has gotten off to a terrific start at PHS. Both the Recreation Board and School Board representative LaPage indicated that the joining of the two departments has been very good for the community.

- The board discussed the term limits imposed on Boards and Commissions and the fact that the vast majority of the Recreation Board, 6 of 9 appointed members are over 10 years and up for reappointment in 2008 and an additional member in 2009. That would be a turnover of 7 of 9 members in a year, which would greatly impact the institutional knowledge of the Board.
- D.P.W. Representative Everett Kern gave a report on the work being done at the Spinnaker Point facility, the refurbishing of the South Playground tennis courts, and several other DPW projects relating to the Recreation Department.
- Several other small discussions took place regarding other department and non-recreation activities in the city.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.