

The February 20th meeting of the Portsmouth Recreation Board was held at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Members Excused: Vice Chairperson Paul Houlares, Kathy Brown

Invited Recreation Staff: Assistant Recreation Director Barry Foley, Spinnaker Point Supervisor Tim Bailey, Pool Supervisor Greig Cronauer

Actions/Discussions:

- The Recreation Board welcomed new City Council Representative Ned Raynolds
- Spinnaker Point Supervisor Tim Bailey gave a report on the on going winter activities at Spinnaker, including membership updates, league activities, new programs, maintenance projects, etc.
- Assistant Director Barry Foley gave an update on the on going winter activities at the Connie Bean Center, including almost 500 children involved in youth basketball leagues, on going ski programs, dances, vacation camp activities, judo, exercise for infants to seniors, weekly adult/senior citizen trips, art classes, clubs and numerous special events.
- Pool Supervisor Greig Cronauer presented a video of the indoor pool activities which included lessons of all kinds from infant to school children to adults, lifeguard training classes, swim teams, stroke instruction, family swims, swim meets, etc. The film was made and produced by students at PHS in a cooperative effort.

- Recreation Director gave a report of the continued joint programs between the School and Recreation Departments. There are numerous on going programs that combine coaches and teams from PHS working with the youth in recreation programs including vacation sports camps, visits to the high school practices and facilities, etc. The coaches and the administration think this is a vital link to the ongoing success of the athletic programs at PHS.
- There was a spirited “off the agenda” discussion of term limits for Boards and Commissions and the ramifications if the Recreation Board were to lose the six members whose terms are up this calendar year. Members made their feelings known to the City Council Rep(s) that were in attendance.
- Indoor Pool capital projects were discussed and the need for a comprehensive plan for all recreation facilities before any capital money is spent to upgrade current facilities. There were many scenarios talked about and the board concluded the next one to two years will be a critical planning period for the future of all the recreation facilities.
- The rest of the Recreation Department capital improvement projects were discussed including the Plains playground, the reuse of the Dobles Army Reserve Center, the reclamation of the former stump dump and artificial turf for fields in Portsmouth. There was much discussion about what fields would be the best location for artificial turf and it was determined that the fields at the PHS should be the first fields suited for artificial turf.
- DPW Rep. Everett Kern gave a report on all the maintenance activities going on in the recreation facilities and the work they did to try to flood for outdoor ice rinks in several locations.
- A letter was read from Eliza Hobson complimented the Spinnaker Point recreation facility, the programs and the staff. She suggested everything was “top notch” and “don’t change a thing”.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.