

The February 10th 2010 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: Chairman Carl Diemer, Jackie Pitts (arrived @ 8 p.m.), Elaine Syracuse, Kathy Siegel, Kent LaPage, Pat McCartney, Ed DelValle, Councilor Eric Spear, Councilor Tony Coviello, Recreation Director Rus Wilson, City Manager John Bohenko (ex officio)

Members Excused: Heather Hurtt

Actions/Discussions:

- City Manager Bohenko gave a brief presentation on the 2010/11 city operating budget and the difficulties of presenting a budget that reflects a 4% decrease from the previous years budget. He said he could reduce a myriad of small budget items, which would adversely affect many programs, or eliminate one large program, which would affect the least amount of people. He is recommending the closure of the indoor pool, which would save approximately \$1.2 million in capital expenditure over the next several years and approximately \$390,000 in operating costs (net) each year it is closed. There was much discussion from all members of the board and different scenarios played out as to what programs would be affected, where the programs would go if the pool were to close, whether the city had looked into private/public partnerships, looked at raising rates and/or reducing expenses, other options besides closing the pool, etc. After an hour or so of discussion, a motion was made to

support the city manager's recommendation with the following stipulations: The department work with the YMCA and other pools in the area to find homes for as many indoor pool programs as possible if the pool were to close, the department look for ways to increase revenue and/or reduce expenses as an alternative to closing. The motion passed 7-1 with one abstention.

- An overview of the Recreation Needs Study was given. The final input session on indoor facilities is scheduled for February 18th. After that final session, TAT will be writing their final report and recommendations. The city is looking at a parallel path to replace the Connie Bean Center activities with a second gymnasium at the Portsmouth Middle School.
- A report was given on the progress of the artificial turf at the PHS football field and the softball field at the Wentworth school site. Dan Hartrey, project manager for the city, has assured the Recreation Director that the two projects are on schedule and are expected to be completed on time.
- The Recreation Director updated the board on PHS athletic director duties. Everything continues to go well with that cooperative effort.
- A letter was read from a Spinnaker Adult Recreation Center patron thanking the city for the fine programs and staff at that facility
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.