

RECREATION BOARD MINUTES 3-21-12

The March 21st, 2012 meeting of the Portsmouth Recreation Board was held at the Portsmouth High School conference room. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Todd Henley, Kory Sirmaian, Kathy Siegel, Elaine Syracuse, Jackie Pitts, Chairman Carl Diemer, School Board Representative Kent LaPage, Recreation Director Rus Wilson

Members Excused: Ed DelValle

Guests: Barry Foley, Assistant Recreation Director

Actions/Discussions:

- The Board welcomed Nancy Clayburgh as the new City Council representative. Nancy has tremendous experience with the Recreation Department as well as the PHS athletic department as all of her children went through both programs.
- The Recreation Director updated the Board on the management changes at the indoor pool, as Lisa Arakalian will reduce her hours as pool supervisor and Yvonne Cedegren will “co-supervise” the facility.
- Alumni-Wentworth Field is finished and ready to be played on. Possible “ribbon cutting” dates were discussed. The Recreation Board will be invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony. It was suggested that Bob Hopley be invited and asked to participate in the ribbon cutting for his many years of service to the Portsmouth softball leagues.
- Signage for Alumni-Wentworth Field was reviewed and received well. All signage is similar to the current signage at Peirce Island and will be installed before the ribbon cutting ceremony.
- An update was given on the new recreation facility on Parrot Avenue. The project is on schedule and expected to be finished this summer for a September opening. Kent LaPage brought up the issue of parking and asked the status of the parking study/parking garage and other issues regarding parking on the Parrot Avenue corridor. Carl Diemer expressed to the JBC representative that he wished the Recreation Board could have had more input into both the recreation center project as well as the Alumni-Wentworth Field project.

- Connie Bean Center disposition was discussed with a long term land lease being the most likely scenario for the disposition of the facility.
- The Board sent a letter to the city council requesting the name “Connie Bean” be transferred to the new recreation facility. It was also asked that the current sign on the Connie Bean Center be given a prominent place at the new facility as well.
- The Recreation Department has purchased a new program for all its facilities which will allow the department to accept credit card, register on line, track participation and a multitude of other options. This will be included in the new facility as well.
- Barry Foley gave a review of the winter rec. programs and a preview of the spring programs. The new brochure was passed out and several new programs discussed.
- Rus Wilson gave a report of the successful winter athletic programs at PHS, including the 18th N.H. state boys basketball championship.
- A maintenance report was given in lieu of Everett Kern absence. DPW has several projects ongoing at the various recreation facilities, including the upcoming opening of the outdoor pool and the boat launch at Peirce Island.
- Carl Diemer brought up possible options for the Dobles Center property, which could become available in the next couple of years. While it is scheduled to be a multipurpose large field, it will be placed on the agenda at a future meeting to discuss possibilities.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.