

RECREATION BOARD MINUTES 12-2-21

The December 2nd, 2021 meeting of the Portsmouth Recreation Board was held in the Senior Activity Center at 125 Cottage St. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Chairman Carl Diemer, Jackie Cali-Pitts, Tara Kennedy (zoom), Bob Bogartus, Rich Duddy, Rich Blalock, Kathie Lynch, Kory Sirmaian (zoom), Recreation Director Todd Henley (zoom).

Members Excused:

Guests: Peter Rice, Director Public Works; Alice Carey, Placework; Craig Pereira, Horsley Witten Group; Barry Foley, Assistant Recreation Director; Lexy VanBinsbergen, Pool Supervisor; Brinn Chute, Senior Services Coordinator; Bridget Crompton, Administrative Clerk

Actions/Discussions:

- Recreation Needs Study – Discussion with consultants
 - Presentation from Placework/Horsley Witten on Recreation Needs Study
 - Focus on Community Engagement, Social & Environmental factors, and future planning.
 - Project Team: Todd Henley, Peter Rice, Peter Stith, Barry Foley, Alice Carey, Craig Pereira.
 - Timeline
 - Existing Conditions – Dec-Feb
 - Public Engagement – Feb-Mar/Apr
 - Needs Assessment – Apr-May
 - Compilation – Jun-Jul
 - Todd is point person for Rec Board input
 - Community Campus planning
 - Site & building analysis
 - Community Input
 - Considerations
 - Jackie and Deaglan spoke about using mailings to get more interaction

- Kathie spoke about engaging those that don't necessarily get involved in Recreation
- Project Team will keep Recreation Board informed and updated at each meeting going forward. Email updates as well.
- PFAs Field Testing Update
 - Peter Rice gave update to Board on testing that will be conducted on turf field.
 - City has asked the manufacturer for listing of any chemicals used in making the field.
 - Data will be collected and submitted to council for a decision.
 - Jackie and Kathie questioning who will pay for the tests.
 - Bob spoke on how there are multiple turf fields in the Northeast alone, the manufacturer sold the same turf to other towns yet no issues there.
 - Chair said first it was the crumb rubber, now it's the turf. How will the council understand the results and what to do. Lots of hard work and time put into getting this built, we do not want to see anything happen to it.
- Updates
 - Skateboard Park – Committee to provide report back to Council on Dec 6th about cost estimate. Councilor Kennedy asking for \$2.2 million to get Phase I complete. Phase I includes 20,000sqft skate park plus pump track, field, limited gravel parking. Lighting to be fundraised.
 - Community Campus – Council to vote on \$10 million funding for Campus at Dec 6th meeting. Looking like a late January closing if all goes well.
 - Pickleball Courts – Nets & Lights to remain throughout winter as possible. If any issues, we will take down and lock courts. Will talk about rentals/tourneys/etc at January meeting.
 - Holiday Parade – Saturday, Dec 4th at 6pm downtown. Brinn coordinates and the Recreation Bus will be lit up and in the parade this year.
- Other
 - Next meeting – January 19th at 6:30pm at Senior Center.
 - Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.