

RECREATION BOARD MINUTES 1-26-22

The January 26, 2022 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 (Zoom), Jackie Cali-Pitts, Brian French, Bob Bogartus, Rich Duddy, Rich Blalock, Kathie Lynch, Kory Sirmaian (zoom), Recreation Director Todd Henley.

Members Excused:

Guests: Barry Foley, Assistant Recreation Director; Lexy VanBinsbergen, Pool Supervisor; Tim Bailey, Spinnaker Point Supervisor; Brinn Chute, Senior Services Coordinator; Bridget Crompton, Administrative Clerk

Actions/Discussions:

- Pickleball Tournaments/Rentals & Letter of Tournament Request
 - There was a proposal sent to the Chairman in regards to a May Pickleball Tournament.
 - Discussion was had about what a tournament might involve and some concerns that the city should have if they were to be held.
 - Issues included: Liability/insurance, too much time using the courts for the tourney only, entry fee, amount of people, parking, restrooms, amount of tourneys per year.
 - Motion to allow Recreation Director to follow up with group in regards to concerns and how this event will have to be sent to City Manager's office for further approval. Motion accepted.
 - Recreation Director to report back at next meeting in regards to conversation with Pickleball group.

- Letter Requesting Naming of Turf Field
 - Officer Dean Outhouse sent a formal request to the city for naming of new turf field in honor of James "Keko" Morrissey.
 - Family of Mr. Morrissey said a few words about Keko.
 - Recreation Director updated Board that a similar request came before the Board in 2011 trying to name Alumni-Wentworth field for Keko. Upon that request, the Board created a "criteria" for having things in the city named for people and suggested that Keko would fall under the "Initial Step" for qualification. That "Initial Step" was to have his name memorialized on a Wall of Honor that was created in 2011 and put up at Alumni-Wentworth field. The

Recreation Director confirmed that this happened and that Keko's name was placed on the Wall of Honor.

- The recommendation from the Board would be that there is no other action needed since he was previously honored.
 - Family did not know this and was upset there had not been any formal recognition or notification to them. They had never seen it.
 - Board recommended that the city will give them some sort of formal recognition soon and referred that action to the Recreation Director.
 - Board requested that the Field Naming Criteria be posted on the website.
- Report from the Recreation Director
 - Update on Rec Needs Study
 - Website live and special page can be found on Recreation Department website.
 - Can sign up for e-blasts to keep updated
 - Completing site assessments
 - Press release and surveys coming soon
 - Update on Community Campus
 - Looking like a late-February closing date
 - Final funding approved by City Council
 - Currently working with the Foundation for transitions of vendor contracts and will be reaching out to the current tenants soon.
 - Director and Admin Clerk planning to move there with Assistant Director moving there this summer.
 - Update on Skate Park
 - \$2.2 million approved by City Council in December
 - Pillar Design is working on skate park design now and timeframe for project completion
 - Skate park committee is focused on fundraising for the lighting at the park, looking to host a large fundraising event in the spring.
 - Report from Recreation Staff
 - Winter Youth Programs (Barry Foley)
 - Announced he will be retiring in July
 - Youth basketball was successful and is wrapping up
 - Planning spring programming
 - Summer Camp planning with Lexy
 - Senior Activity Center (Brinn Sullivan)
 - New art on the walls
 - Monthly newsletter has gone out
 - Portsmouth will be conducting an Age-Friendly survey
 - Spinnaker Point (Tim Bailey)

- Memberships up to 1000, pre-covid numbers were 1300, so that is a good sign
 - Classes continue, mask mandates still causing some issues
 - Replaced HVAC rooftop unit
- Indoor Pool (Lexy VanBinsbergen)
 - Still experiencing some lifeguarding shortages contributing to limited hours
 - Partnership with PHS, providing free lifeguarding class to 9 students
 - New aquatics class called S'wet.
 - SIPP contract expiring June 30 and the city will take over management
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.