

# City of Portsmouth Recreation Board Meeting

December 20, 2023  
Community Campus  
6:30pm

## MINUTES FOR DEC 20, 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call to Determine a Quota: Carl Deimer, Chair, Rich Blalock, City Council Rep, Bob Bogardus, Rich Duddy, Kathie Lynch, Jackie Calli-Pitts
3. Public Comment – no public in attendance
4. Recreation Board Guidelines Update:
  - a. **Youth Member:** Suggested as a possibility by the Assistant Mayor and later at the Governance Meeting, they approved the Operational Guidelines with the side note asking the Rec Board to discuss a youth member as a possible addition to the board (in whatever way they deem suitable). Discussion among members took place. Settled on adding to agenda for next meeting for further examination. The Chair asked Councilor Blalock to get clarification from Governance Committee on any specific guidelines for a youth representative.
  - b. **Nominations/Elections at next meeting:** Approved Operational Guidelines handed out to all board members in attendance (previously emailed as well). Nominations are being taken from now until the next meeting and at the next meeting. Voting will take place at the next meeting for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.
    - Next rec board meeting needs to be rescheduled. Dec 17 does not work for the majority.
5. Skatepark Update/Opening: Director reported that the draft of the “substantial completion” letter from the construction company has been submitted to the city and subsequently steps will take place for the city to take control of the park. The goal is to have the park open to the public by winter break from school.
  - Ribbon cutting is anticipated to be scheduled for late spring.
6. Director’s Update
  - a. **Holiday Parade:** Assistant Director reported a successful parade with the highest participation and spectator attendance to date. The post parade Shop and Stroll event was also a success and will likely stay as part of the tree lighting and parade schedule.

- b. **Pickleball Update:** Director reported that the reservation system that the recreation department currently uses is being changed. Therefore, the plan to start taking reservations for pickleball court use will be pushed back. Stay tuned for more information once the software changeover is complete.
- c. **New Recreation Supervisor:** Interviews have started and second round interviews taking place in early January. Looking to have new hire onboarded by early February. Reminder that the focus will be on afterschool programs for the campus and to assist with the growth of the summer camp program.

7. Old Business:

- Councilor Blalock asked for update on Disc Golf. Director reported that Urban Forestry was asked about land use. Funding would also need to be identified for a large project such as a disc golf course installation. Director noted that Recreation Supervisor, Jamie Schaaf, will be implementing some disc golf introductory lessons in the coming year.
- Chair inquired about site selection committee in regard to a sports complex in Portsmouth. Director restated that the City of Portsmouth's site selection committee met with representatives from area towns and Pease Development Authority. At the meeting the municipalities all stated that they did not have the land for a public/private project like stated in the RFQ. Private site development is still an option. Chair inquired about a work session with the City Council regarding this project and Councilor Blalock said that is not the next step at this time.

8. New Business:

- a. Stay tuned for Spring/Summer Rec Brochure in February. All info will be online by mid to end of January.
- b. Summer Camp sign ups on Mon, Feb 5.

9. Adjournment