

City of Portsmouth, NH
Recreation Board
Minutes of Meeting of February 18, 2026

Present: Kathie Lynch, Rich Duddy [chair], Amy Mae Court, Scott Chaudoin, Jacki Calli-Pitts, Brinn Sullivan, Todd Henley, Rich Blalock [city council rep], Scott Chaudoin

Guests: Tim Bailey [Spinnaker Point Supervisor]

1. Meeting called to order at the Community Campus at 6:32; quorum established.
2. Minutes: Rich Blalock moved, 2nd by Scott Chaudoin to accept the minutes of the January meeting; unanimously approved.
3. Public Comment:
 - a. Three Portsmouth residents rose to share concerns related to the recent scheduling of pickle ball open court times at Spinnaker Point. They expressed concerns regarding the rationale for changing “open” gym to exclude pickle ball during open gym time into designated pickle ball only time slots, locking of the nets during non-pickle ball open gym times, and degrading comments regarding pickle ball on message boards at the gym. Concerns expressed primarily were in relation to basketball use during open gym times and a belief that basketball had many more hours of available use as compared to pickle ball which in their views had fewer participants but more available time.
 - b. Motion by Rich Blalock, 2nd Scott Chaudoin to suspend the agenda and move item 6a for consideration to Public Comment; unanimously approved.
 - c. Tim Bailey distributed a handout and shared with the Board and those still in attendance from the public the history of pickle ball play at Spinnaker and the series of slowly developing events that led to the decision to separate out pickle ball open gym from non-pickle ball open gym. Rationale included the use of the gym by participants engaged in other fitness activities including scheduled fitness classes and sports including fencing, volleyball, tennis, and stretching. When these activities took place along with pickle ball the available space for alternate activities was limited often resulting in members leaving rather than completing planned activities and safety concerns arose around errant balls. In addition, parking availability is a major concern at the fitness center and scheduling was designed to allow for a group using the fitness center to finish a class and leave opening spaces for the next group event scheduled at the center. Tim shared that he increased dedicated pickle ball times to include weekend afternoons, and a total of 17 hours dedicated to pickle ball play are now on the Spinnaker schedule with another 14 hours of dedicated pickle ball gym time available at the Community Campus. Tim indicated that gym use is monitored, and the available hours may change if use suggests a need to revisit the scheduled

times. Following Tim's presentation, a suggestion was made to survey the users of the fitness center for suggested improvements including related to the use of the gym once the new schedule has been in place for 6 months.

4. Letters/communications:

- a. Motion by Rich Blalock, 2nd by Kathie Lynch to suspend the agenda and move item 7a forward; unanimously approved.
- b. Presentation to accept a donation of a basketball scoreboard at South Mill basketball courts was made by Cory Belden of Altus Engineering and Chris Petzy of Serious Summer League. Cory and Chris shared the history of basketball at South Mill Courts and the advantages of a permanent scoreboard for players and spectators. Scoreboard and all items needed to construct will be a donation. Handouts and power point presentation provided information on location and lighting [only red LED lights for score, period, and time remaining]. Todd indicated that once accepted and received as a donation the scoreboard would be Recreation Department owned and anticipated use during Recreation Department activities at the courts. Public works and the Recreation Department would be involved in planning and decision making around construction. Motion by Kathie Lynch, 2nd Rich Blalock to accept the donation of the basketball scoreboard; unanimously approved. Todd and Rich will share the approval with City Council who makes the final decision on accepting donations to the city.

5. Old/Unfinished Business:

- a. Update on Skateboard Park lighted hours: Amy Mae and Todd shared that a decision has been reached to eliminate lighted hours during January and February in favor of having the lights on until 10 pm for the other 10 months of the year. This decision is revenue neutral and will go into effect beginning the next fiscal year.
- b. Update on Code of Conduct: Kathie had previously sent, via email, a first draft of suggestions for a code of conduct for Recreation Department facilities and fields. Following this email, Lauren Krans organized the suggestions into a framework emphasizing 3 key concepts: Be Respectful, Be Safe, and Be Responsible. Both documents were shared at the meeting. The Board began a discussion on the use, verbiage, and locations for posting a code and decided to delay further discussion until the March meeting providing more time for each member to review the draft provisions and make suggestions for a code. Motion by Rich Blalock, 2nd Kathie Lynch to move work on the code to the March meeting providing time for all Board members to review the documents and make suggestions via email to Kathie by March 9 for consideration of the code at the March meeting; unanimously approved.

6. New Business:

- a. Seacoast "Y" and recreation future in the city: Board discussed the options for adult recreation including current ongoing negotiations with Spinnaker Point to extend the adult fitness center lease and opportunities to partner

with other local fitness centers for programming. A suggestion to invite a representative from the “Y” to attend a Board meeting to share the long-term goals of the “Y” and discuss opportunities to partner with the Recreation Department left open the possibility of such an invitation to a future meeting.

- b. Upcoming events with invitation to Recreation board members to assist:
 - i. Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 28 @ Langdon Park
 - ii. Magic Fred’s Magic Show Saturday, March 14 @ Community Campus
 - iii. Portswap Saturday, April 25 @ Community Campus

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 by Kathie Lynch, 2nd Rich Blalock; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Lynch
Secretary