

RECREATION BOARD MINUTES 3-15-17

The March 15th 2017 meeting of the Portsmouth Recreation Board was held in the Principal's conference room at Portsmouth High School. The meeting was call to order at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: School Board representative Nancy Clayburgh, Kory Sirmain, Kathy Lynch, Jackie Pitts, Rick Beckstead, Lia Louitt, Todd Henley, Recreation Director Rus Wilson

MEMBERS EXCUSE: City Councilor Josh Cyr, Chairman Carl Diemer

GUESTS: Barry Foley, Brinn Chute, Tim Bailey,

- Concerns over crumb rubber at the proposed Route 33 field was discussed. There does not seem to be consensus among top educators and scientists in the field about the safety of crumb rubber as an infill in artificial turf fields. The city council is discussing whether a group of local scientists may bring them a clearer picture of the risks involved.
- There is a plan in place for parking at Pierce Island this summer, but the success of the plan, or lack thereof, will be determined as the summer progresses.
- The Dobles property, as a possible senior center, is moving along. Architects have been hired to start work on rehabbing the facility and constructive possession could happen within months.
- The South Playground basketball/tennis courts have been totally demolished and about ½ way to completion. That project should be finished by the end of May.
- Wilcox Industries has donated \$40,000 to sponsor the July 3rd fireworks celebration, with special emphasis on honoring all veterans.
- A question was raised about firearms in public facilities in Portsmouth. While there is an ordinance which prohibits firearms in Portsmouth public facilities, state law may supersede that ordinance. City Attorney is working on a response to that question
- Tim Bailey (Spinnaker Point, Brinn Sullivan (Senior Center) and Barry Foley (Connie Bean Center) all gave reports on activities at their respective facilities.
- There was a request for the Great Bay Community College to use city facilities for baseball/softball practices and games. That request was granted and the recreation director was instructed to work out compensation for that request.
- The Recreation Board will be taking a tout of all recreation facilities before its May meeting
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.