

The April 23rd meeting of the Portsmouth Recreation Board was held at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. The meeting was call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Chairperson Carl Diemer, Assistant Chairperson Paul Houlares, School Board Representative Kent LaPage, Kathy Siegel, Jackie Pitts, Tom Bolko, Pat McCartney, Recreation Director Rus Wilson D.P.W. Representative Everett Kern

Members Excused: City Council Representatives Ned Raynolds and Laura Pantelakos, Harry Clark, Elaine Syracuse

Actions/Discussions:

- It was announce that Recreation Board member Harry Clark recently underwent surgery, but is now home and doing well.
- Recent Recreation Board member Kathy Brown has resigned from the Board in order to attend law school. The Board expressed their appreciation for her service.
- The City Council decision to put off \$500,000 worth of capital improvement projects for the indoor pool for one year was discussed. This will give the city an opportunity to evaluate all recreation facilities in the city and come up with a recommendation for future facility needs. The Connie Bean Center is extremely old and impractical for future recreation needs with limited interior space and parking. The indoor pool is in dire need of many capital expenditures and operating expenses far exceed revenues. The Board thought a review of all recreation facility/field needs in the city was a good idea.
- The Board reviewed the spring/summer brochure which included the usual array of sporting activities and camps and some very new and unusual activities such as skateboard clinics, pottery camps, creative critter camps, lego robotics camps, and many more passive activities to reach out to all areas of the community.
- An update was given on the hiring of summer interns for the Pierce Island ranger program as well as other recreation opportunities for college interns.
- The Dobles Reserve Center/multipurpose field project was discussed. Although the facility will not become available for several years, the Board thought it was a wise idea to show interest

in the property for recreation use whether it be for a field or other recreation possibilities.

- Discussion took place on the constant interest in getting an artificial turf field in Portsmouth. The football field at PHS was the first choice for turf as it could be used for a variety of team (field hockey, lacrosse, soccer and football). The feeling was that the \$3 million dollar figure reflected in the capital budget should be reduced to under \$1 million to redo one field.
- The reclamation of the stump dump for field usage was discussed. The Recreation Director will be meeting with interested parties in the near future to discuss the future of that property.
- The dock at the boat launch at Peirce Island has been put in the water, there are portajohns at the facility and the launch will be staffed weekends as soon as the weather is conducive to boat launching. The fee will be \$10 to start the season and expected to be raised to \$15 starting July 1st, pending City Council approval of the new fee schedule.
- Everett Kern gave an update on maintenance at the city recreation facilities including work at the Connie Bean Center, Spinnaker Point and the Indoor Pool. Work will begin on the opening of the outdoor pool in the next few weeks.

Under New Business

- School Board Representative Kent LaPage asked the Recreation Board if they would like to meet with the School Board in a joint work session to discuss fields in the city and what the combined boards could do to speed up the process of getting more fields and/or upgrading the current fields we have. Recreation Board Chairman Carl Diemer and Kent LaPage were going to draft a letter to see if the School Board is interested in such a meeting.
- Recreation Board member and Peirce Island Committee member Tom Bolko brought up the recent fruitful discussions the Peirce Island Committee had with Recreation Director Rus Wilson and DPW Rep Everett Kern regarding Peirce Island issues. One issue that came out of that discussion was a carry in/carry out policy with trash. After much discussion the Recreation Board voted to support a recommendation that Peirce Island have a carry in/carry out policy.

- Another item brought to the Board was the possibility of different groups (sports team, band, etc) charging for parking at Peirce Island during Prescott Park events as a fundraiser. Often the island is overrun with cars parking for free for events at Prescott Park and/or Strawberry Banke.
- Chairperson Carl Diemer brought up the possibility of the city combining Boards/Commissions in a move to consolidate. The Board thought that the Recreation Board could absorb the Peirce Island committee, but any other Boards/Commissions would be incompatible with the mission of the Recreation Board.

Meeting was adjourned a 8 p.m