

The June 18th 2008 meeting of the Portsmouth Recreation Board was held at the Greenleaf Rec. Ctr. The meeting was call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Recreation Board Chairperson Carl Diemer, Assistant Chairperson Paul Houlares, City Councilors Ned Raynolds and Laura Pantelakos, School Board Representative Kent LaPage, Tom Bolko, Jackie Pitts, Harry Clark, DPW rep. Everett Kern, Rec. Director Rus Wilson

Members Excused: Kathy Siegel, Elaine Syracuse, Pat McCartney

Invited Guests: Ass't Recreation Director Barry Foley, Pool Supervisor Greig Cronauer

Actions/Discussions:

- The Board welcomed back Harry Clark from a lengthy illness and congratulated Tom Bolko for retiring after 43 years of school department employment
- Barry Foley and Greig Cronauer gave a preview of all the summer programs including everything from sports leagues, camps, swim lessons, trips classes of all kind, etc. The Board was impressed with the quantity and quality of the programs offered.
- The new city policy of carry in-carry out at Peirce Island was discussed. Both the Peirce Island Committee and the Rec. Board supported this policy so the Board was encouraged it was adopted. Everett Kern gave an update on how it would work and some of the issues the city may face. Policy will take place July 1st, 2008.
- There was very broad discussion about the Recreation Department needs assessment and how the Middle School construction would affect that assessment. Discussion ensued about the numerous issues with the Connie Bean Center and the indoor pool. Rus indicted the city was looking at all possibilities for future Recreation Department facilities. There was discussion about the front page Portsmouth Herald article about the indoor pool. The

Recreation Board hoped that all future discussions about recreation facilities included the Board.

- Extensive discussion about the Middle School project and the effect on city fields. The Board discussed the proposals to date and how the fields across the street would be affected. The general consensus was that the city needs a new field complex at some location. They thought the plans for the fields in the Middle School plans was a “band-aid” approach and did not address the real problem about lack of fields in the City of Portsmouth. There are three viable options for the Middle School to have a large multipurpose field for soccer, field hockey and lacrosse. One is to convert the Leary Field/Central Field area to a multipurpose, one is to turf the high school football field to an all purpose field to include all Middle School large field games, and the last is to build a completely new multipurpose field off school property (Jones Ave., stump dump, etc.) Kent LaPage suggested that the Recreation Board meet with the School Board with the purpose of discussing fields and the impact on the school department as well as the city.
- There was long discussion on the consolidation of Boards and Commissions. While there was no vote taken on a recommendation there was sentiment expressed on both sides with many members thinking it was a good idea over all. There were questions about how a new Board would be made up, how many members, from which current boards, their authority, etc. The Recreation Board would like to meet again before the July 21st meeting of the City Council to give a recommendation.
- Piece Island will be celebrating its 85th anniversary and the Peirce Island Committee will be holding a celebration of Sunday Aug. 10th. Tom Bolko, a Peirce Island Committee and Recreation Board members, asked if the Recreation Department could provide ice cream and activities for children to help draw people to the island for this occasion.
- DPW representative Everett Kern gave an update on all of the maintenance activity going on in the Recreation Department. The outdoor pool is ready to open on June 23rd, park and playground improvements were discussed, and future maintenance projects for the department were laid out.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.