

## **Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board**

**September 16, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held in the first floor conference room of the Town's Annex building on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Cindy Neely, Chair.

### **Members Present**

Jim McIntosh  
Mary Ann Finn  
Gail Stanford  
Elizabeth Baxter  
Cindy Neely

### **Members Absent**

Alex Brown, ex officio member  
Cynthia Bettison, ex officio member  
Paula Rouse

### **Town Staff Present**

Luan Mitchell

### **Members of the Public Present**

David Menzie  
Dominic Dahl-Bredine  
Pete Fust  
Alexandra Perrault

### **Approval of August 5, 2009, Minutes**

Two additions to the minutes were recommended: Mr. Brown should be listed as absent from the meeting as he is an ex officio member, and mention should be made that there were no minutes from the July meeting as no quorum was present and the meeting was not held. Mr. McIntosh moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Finn seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### **Announcements**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 5:30 pm.

### **Public Input**

David Menzie of the New Mexico Environment Department described the wetland restoration project he is working on in the San Vicente Creek area. He said there is \$1,000 available for outreach materials that the Parks & Rec Board may be able to suggest to other groups. Ms. Neely asked how the funds could be used. Mr. Menzie said he would have to make the purchase but a possible use might be printing, stationery and postage for the Riverwalk group when they are contacting property owners regarding easements.

Dominic Dahl-Bredine, Pete Fust and Alexandra Perrault presented their ideas and plans for a disc golf course in the Silver City area. They described disc golf as a game of growing interest in Silver City and in New Mexico, as well as around the country. It's easy to learn and anyone can play, it's free everywhere, there is low chance of injury and causes very little, if any, damage to the land or environment. They are looking for an area of about 22 acres. Pete Fust lives in Kingston and designs disc golf courses, including the one in Kingston. He said people come from all over to tournaments and the Silver City group would like to host tournaments. Mr. McIntosh reminded the group that the Town's parks department doesn't have the funds or facilities to maintain a course and Mr. Fust assured him that there is very little maintenance and that is taken care of by the players. Ms. Perrault explained that they are not asking for funding or anything beyond support for the project. The board was in favor of the idea and Ms. Neely asked that the group report back when they are further along with their plans.

## **Member reports**

Ms. Baxter reported that the skate park is beginning to look bad with graffiti and trash. She also said there were few kids wearing helmets. Mr. McIntosh said the Town should intervene now to keep it from getting worse.

Mr. McIntosh informed the board that there will be a 7-mile race on October 31 or November 1 to benefit Partners in Health and hospice. Insurance will be provided through the Silver City Striders policy. There will be a shorter race for those who choose it and a race for children as well. It is to be called the All Souls Race.

Ms. Neely said she had spoken with Rachel Kutcher She had been waiting to hear from us again about whether or not she should set up a date when Joanne McIntire could talk to the council about the Complete Streets Initiative. I told her we thought she was already doing that, so I told her that she should just go ahead, and that there didn't seem to be any reason for the Parks and Rec board to set it up or be in the way of it, since it had more to do with streets and planning, than with Parks and Recreation, at this point. She has also spoken with Carrie Tomlinson of GCEC who is working on the trail system and the outdoor classroom, both of which are progressing well. Paula Rouse is resigning from the board because of a lack of time. Ms. Neely said she had hoped to meet with Mayor Marshall before this meeting, but he had to postpone. She will be asking him just what he expects from the board.

Ms. Finn reported about an article she had written for the Wishing You Well column in the paper about parks and recreation activities in Silver City, and asked readers to contact the P/R board with comments, suggestions or questions. She received two phone calls in response. Among the comments were advocacy of soccer and more activities for adults besides those for hard-core athletes, disagreement with the centralization of ball parks at the Altamirano complex, and concern that the arts get a lot of support here but parks and recreation do not. Mr. McIntosh suggested both respondents be invited to apply for membership on the board.

## **New Business**

1. Penny Park: Simon Wheaton-Smith told Ms. Neely that things are “rolling.” There is a meeting at 3:00 on September 24<sup>th</sup> with Alex Brown, Gwynn Jones, Charlotte Griffon (one of the respondents to Ms. Finn’s article) and someone from Parks and Recreation. It was assumed that meant the Parks and Rec Department of the town as no one from the board was scheduled to attend. Both Ms. Stanford and Ms. Neely said they would try to be there as well.

2. Parks and Recreation Board role: As an example it was questioned what the board should or could do for the disc golf group beyond saying it’s a good idea and giving them guidance for making a good presentation to the Town Council. It was thought that the board is considered a buffer between citizen advocates and the Town. Publication of a resource guide of grant as well as recreation opportunities should be considered. Ms. Stanford asked if we should be encouraging groups to come with presentations of their projects when there is little or no money. Ms. Neely responded that since we do not make the decisions about who might be funded or how much that funding might be, advising groups how to make successful presentations to the Town Council would be the main objective. Ms. Finn suggested that working closely with the disc golf group on their proposal would generate publicity for the board.

## **Old Business**

Inventory/Wish List: it was agreed that it should be presented not as a request for action from the Town, but more as a statement of the condition of local parks. It should be brought to the council’s attention before the next budget planning period.

Everyone was reminded that it is only three weeks until the next meeting.

Ms. Neely adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

*Submitted by Luan Mitchell*

