

Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board

July 14, 2010

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held at the public swimming pool on Wednesday July 14, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Cindy Neely, Chair.

Members Present

Cindy Neely
Cameron Martin
Jim McIntosh
Mary Ann Finn
Gail Stanford
Jesse Hargrave
Councilor Jamie Thomson, ex officio member

Members Absent

Elizabeth Baxter
Alex Brown, ex officio member

Town Staff Present

Luan Mitchell

Members of the Public Present

Elizabeth (BJ) Allen, Arts and Cultural District Volunteer
Karen Lauseng, Arts and Cultural District Coordinator

Approval of June 9, 2010, Minutes

Mr. McIntosh moved to approve the Minutes as written. Ms. Stanford seconded and it was passed unanimously.

Public Input

Ms. Stanford moved that the public input portion of the meeting be next as the members of the public that were present could not stay very long. Mr. McIntosh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Stanford introduced Karen Lauseng and B J Allen. Ms. Lauseng is the district coordinator for the Arts and Cultural District; Ms. Allen is a volunteer for that organization. Ms. Lauseng explained that the ACD wants to do an inventory of all parks in Grant County, with photographs, to put on their website and to have available for tourists. She said they wanted to let the board know what they were planning so work would not be duplicated by both groups. Ms. Neely suggested the Parks and Recreation Board partner with the Arts and Cultural District to save redundancy and perhaps funds as well.

Announcements

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at 5:30 pm in the downstairs conference room of the town hall annex.

Report from Chair

Ms. Neely had brought in the 2008 Community Resource Kit, a large 3-ring binder, which is full of brochures, flyers and other sources of information regarding resources for families, including recreation opportunities. Luan took the book and it will be available at her office.

Ms. Neely said she had not scheduled a meeting with Alex Brown as she was waiting to see if someone would like to go with her. Mr. McIntosh suggested waiting until after election of the new chair and vice chair, one of whom should then go with Ms. Neely and be introduced to Mr. Brown. Ms. Finn said she would accompany Ms. Neely and it was agreed to set up a meeting on a Monday.

Ms. Neely said she had presented the board's long- and short-term goals to the council at the strategic planning meeting. She advised everyone that if they need addresses of any of the parks, they should call David Lawrence, mapper, at the Community Development Department. His phone number is 534-6349. She added that Peter Pena, director of Public Works, wants a mural installed at the pool next year. The MRAC Youth Mural Program would need \$3500 - \$4000 match by the city. Alex Brown is looking into having the recreation directory printed on recyclable paper. He also said that when the new ball fields are built, they want to use turf instead of grass to save on maintenance and water. The ball fields are not being cleaned after events and Town staff is stretched so it is difficult for them to keep up. How can we educate the public about this? New members need to be recruited for the Parks and Rec board. Ms Neely brought applications and suggested since there were a lot of people there at the pool tonight, maybe they could be approached about joining. The news about Penny Park was that because the wood that was used to build the structures was chemically treated, when they burned they leached arsenic and cadmium into the soil. The rebuild of the park has been postponed until more testing can be done.

Unfinished Business

A. Parks and Rec directory. Ms. Finn passed around the prototype of the directory. Very nice job! In the future the directory will be published in June of each year. It was suggested that Karen Lauseng of the Arts & Cultural District might be able to help with updates as the Town does not have a Publisher program on any of its computers.

B. Organization of Parks & Rec Documents, Letters and Procedures. Ms. Neely passed around her suggested way of organizing in a binder and recommended input from other board members.

C. "Neighborhood Streets as Recreation Facilities." Councilor Thomson commented that where once we recreated in our neighborhoods, we now recreate in particular facilities. How do we define recreation and facilities? Should we make recommendations about making neighborhoods more like parks? Ms. Finn stated that she thought anywhere you find peace, refreshment or distraction, it is recreation. Councilor Thomson said the next strategic plan meeting is in August and the council really wants to reconcile all kinds of stuff. Mr. Hargrave asked what the next step is. A summit meeting of various recreation groups was suggested to discuss what are the goals and how can we network to achieve those goals.

D. Ms. Neely had some materials she suggested could be used as an orientation packet for new members.

New Business

At least two new board members are needed. It would be good to recruit people from the baseball and tennis crowds, also people with children.

Ms. Stanford nominated Mary Ann Finn to be the next chair. Cameron Martin and Jesse Hargrave were nominated for vice chair. The election will be at the next meeting.

Reports from Members

There is a Boston Hill half-marathon on August 28th. Ms. Stanford said she had gotten a call from Nancy Cliff who dislikes billboards. She will be coming around with a petition to eliminate them soon. Ms. Stanford asked for comments or corrections on her hiking trail brochure. She said she can see a lot of projects may come from board members but on their own, such as her brochure, not from the board itself. Ms. Finn passed out the schedule of events for Active and Alive for the summer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

Submitted by Luan Mitchell

Approved by Cindy Neely, Chair, on _____ 2010
