

Town of Hudson  
Benson Park Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2010

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:02 p.m. on May 20, 2010 in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall. C. Gagnon led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Attendance:**

J. Barnes, K. Dickinson, R. Empey, C. Gagnon, M Lee, Clerk P Nichols, Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh, Alternates A. Desrosiers, J. Leone  
Excused: Selectman Liaison S. Jasper

**3. Public Input**

None

**4. Consent Items**

A. Minutes of May 6, 2010 Benson Park Committee.  
**J. Barnes made a motion to accept minutes**  
**C. Gagnon seconded the motion**  
**All in favor...Motion Carries**

**5. Old Business**

**A. Park Progress/Opening Plan**

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** informed the committee on what he knew and what happened at the last BOS meeting. Chair H. Schibanoff gave the Selectmen an updated version of the Rules and Regulations. They accepted the addition of 'Don't feed the wildlife'. Vice Chair gave a report on the plan. There was some discussion on the park hours but the BOS voted to accept the hours as agreed on by the Committee at this time. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh's presentation was brief and was accepted by the BOS. The Board of Selectmen approved the cage removal and approved the butterfly garden as presented by the GFWC Hudson Community Club along with GFWC Hudson Junior Woman's Club. Chair H. Schibanoff was informed by Selectman Liaison S. Jasper that the town would be removing old pavement from Benson Boulevard and when this was done, Tate Paving would be putting in RAP (Recycled Asphalt Product). The Boulevard will be done by the May 29<sup>th</sup> opening. Chair H. Schibanoff spoke with D. Yates about the installation of the port-a- potties near the Gorilla house. These will be moved to a shady area.

**B. Clean-up Activities**

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** started by asking about the next clean-up. C. Gagnon said that Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm would be the last clean-up before opening day. Chair H. Schibanoff asked what the focus would be for the clean-up. C. Gagnon stated she would rely on feed-back from other Committee members but she would also like to see work done on the Main Entrance coming from the main parking lot into the park. This area

had been done before but it is looking a little haggard and needs to be attended to. Other areas were discussed. D. Empey will need help staining the Kiosk and a little grading etc. around this to make it presentable. D. Empey would like to mow a little in some areas before opening day if possible. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked if plans are being made to remove Graffiti from buildings or walls at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff said that he knew of no plans at this time. Some discussion followed and this will be tabled until a future meeting. Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned to C. Gagnon that the volunteers will no longer be able to park in the handicap parking area or drive there vehicles into the park after the opening on May 29<sup>th</sup>. C. Gagnon will put it into the next clean-up email for all volunteers.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Grand Opening Date**

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that the BOS wanted a firm date for the Grand Opening in September. The Governor books out for events only about three (3) weeks in advance so a date is needed. The BOS also wanted a list of invited guests. P. Nichols said that the communication sub committee will be meeting soon and the date and guests will be discussed. J. Barnes suggested that Arthur Provencher be invited and P. Nichols said that he would be invited for sure.

**P. Nichols made a motion to suggest to the Selectmen that September 25<sup>th</sup> be selected as the date for the Grand Opening with September 26<sup>th</sup> as the rain date**

**J. Barnes seconded the motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**

### **B. Floodlights/Security Cameras**

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** gave the Committee Members a copy of a proposal that D. Yates had done. Chair H. Schibanoff gave some details of what this security system could do and that is about everything. Pricing was high and this was discussed somewhat. It was also thought that the committee reviews this and come back to the next meeting with a better understanding of this proposal. Chair H. Schibanoff also stated the D. Yates is getting another proposal from another source and he would review this. D. Empey said that he would prefer flood lighting outside the buildings and motion detectors inside if this could be an option. This is tabled until the next meeting.

### **C. Landscaping Projects**

- **C. Gagnon** would like to form a landscaping sub committee for the park. An interest in this was shown on volunteer sign-ups. C. Gagnon stated that she would start this and hopefully someone would step in to chair this committee. A. Desrosiers asked if anyone had approached C. Gagnon with a request to adopt a parcel of land to plant flowers or shrubs. She has heard rumors to this effect. C. Gagnon said she thought this would be a good start for the sub committee, working out guidelines and making sure that everyone is thinking along the same lines.

### **D. Picnic Tables**

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** stated that Selectman S. Jasper said that the Jasper Corporation would donate Ten (10) picnic tables to Benson Park and they will be in the park for opening day. He is leaving it up to the committee for

placement but he would like two tables to be placed in the overlook area and a few near the A-Frame. Placement of other tables was discussed at length and it was decided to put the extra tables in the A-Frame area until a review of the park takes place at the clean-up on Saturday.

#### **E. Train Station Update**

- **Chair H. Schibanoff** said that J. Barnes asked him if he had an update on the Train Station. He said that he had talked to Bernie Manor and was told that the Request for Qualifications (a term that Chair H. Schibanoff had not heard of before) went out on April 27<sup>th</sup> for the Engineering and Architecture of the building. They had an open house to view the train station and three (3) people showed up and he hopes to have at least three qualifications come in. This is different than other requests in that they pick the firm and then negotiate the price. Deadline for the Qualifications will be May 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **F. Flag**

- **P. Nichols** stated that the one thing the park did not have was an American Flag. She felt this was needed and asked the public if anyone would be willing to donate a pole and flag for the park. A discussion followed and many questions were asked. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh will look into how to make this a reality and come back to the Committee with her findings at the next meeting.

### **7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

**Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh** asked if there was any update on the playground from the Recreation Committee. Chair H. Schibanoff said that he had not heard from anyone from the Recreation Department on this.

**P. Nichols** asked about news of the Benson Sign but Chair H. Schibanoff had no information at this time. She also thanked the Friends of the Library for inviting the Committee to participate in their Fund Raiser at Barnes and Noble in Nashua on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Many people from Nashua stopped at the booth to inquire about Benson Park and so many were unaware of what was going on at the park and were truly interested.

**A. Desrosiers** just wants this weekend clean-up to be a success. There is a lot to do with so little time to do it.

**M. Lee** asked about the Dog Park. Has any progress been made to date? Chair H. Schibanoff said that things are still the same, no progress yet.

**D. Empey** wanted to remind everyone that there is still a lot of work to be done before opening day.

**C. Gagnon** said thank you to all volunteers who have worked so hard to get the park ready to open. Some volunteers have been there every week or just about every week and she wants them to know that whatever time was given is truly appreciated. This weekend is the last big push before the opening and other things will be planned after this. Thank you Volunteers!

**D. Empey** asked if after the Saturday clean-up anyone that can help during the week or early evening would be appreciated. There is still a lot to do and with extra time this could be done. He is also looking for a couple of push lawn mowers for the park. The two that they have are just about gone and some areas still need a quick trim. K. Dickinson said that he had a couple that needed a little work but is willing to donate them to the park.

**Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh** wanted to let the volunteers know that they are unsung hero's for the work that they have done and she sends them a great big Thank You. She also reminded the Committee that the first phase is just about done and not to forget and give some thought to phase two.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that he talked with NPR with Cindy Provencher and that should be airing next week. He also spoke with New Hampshire Magazine that is doing a special section on Benson Park in July. He also mentioned that the Friends of Benson Park has organized and having meetings. They will be talking to the BOS next Tuesday to ask for permission to solicit membership in the park. Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned that he was Chairman of a Foundation and although he is no longer there he receive an RFP pertaining to donations to parks. He forwarded the information to J. Griffus and D. Yates. He stated that this would be great if we could get some of this money. Chair H. Schibanoff gave a correct address of Benson Park as 27 Kimball Hill Road.

**Next meeting Date: May 27, 2010 at 7:00 pm Town Hall  
Board of Selectman Meeting Room,**

## **8. Adjournment 8:20 pm**

**P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn**

**C. Gagnon Seconded the Motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**