

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes February 4th, 2010

Attendance: Jeremy Griffus, Chairman
Sue Laroche
Rupert Cote
Mick Regan
Eric Horton
Dave Yates
Selectman Roger Coutu
Keith Bowen
Bob Iannaco
Carl Dubois

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Rupert Cote made a motion to accept the December minutes with no changes. Sue Laroche seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted 8-0.

Rupert Cote made a motion to accept the January minutes with no changes. Keith Bowen seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted 8-0.

Public Input

None.

Report of Officers

Nothing to report.

Report of Sub Committees

No active committees at this time.

Director's Report

Over 300 attendees at the January 30th comedy night. Event was sold out.

Basketball is winding down, surveys are being distributed to parents of children enrolled in the program to better understand the impact of the basketball rule changes, perceptions of the season, and coach performance. Results will be consolidated and presented to the committee at the March meeting.

The Hudson 33rd annual basketball tournament had 52 teams from visiting towns as well as 10 teams from Hudson. There was 96 games over 3 days. Five Hudson teams made the finals and two of those won their respective championships.

Correspondence

None received.

Old Business

A) Eayrs Pond Project

In place of the January meeting a workshop was held to further discuss the proposed park. At the meeting a vote was passed 6-1 with 1 abstention to cease with the proposed plan.

Dave Yates indicated that any future projects would require the purchase of property unless a suitable alternative is identified.

B) Bensons Committee Involvement

Jeremy Griffus attended a Bensons meeting and indicated that the Bensons Committee was excited that the Recreation Committee was interested in exploring involvement. Jeremy explained that the Hazleton Barn portion of the park was on hold for the time being due to state stipulations, possibly due to the existence of an old burial ground. The Bensons Committee explained to Jeremy that there is discussion regarding the potential for a playground near the A frame building. Jeremy expressed his desire to see any playground ADA accessible as no other playground facility in Hudson meets the requirements for wheelchair access. The end state of the A frame area would also include an amphitheatre. A motion was made by the Bensons Committee and passed to allow the Recreation Committee to use the A frame location for a playground.

Carl Dubois expressed his support of developing the land however he was unclear regarding the use stipulations imposed on the property.

Dave Yates asked for clarification on the committee would proceed. Selectman Coutu indicated that the committee would go to the Bensons Committee as he believes there are no planning board restrictions on the Bensons parcel of land.

Selectman Coutu indicated that the location of the A frame lends itself to a playground due to the expected high level of traffic between the A frame portion of the property and the historic district. The committee needs to determine 1) what role it wants to play 2) how active it would like to be and 3) how it will pay.

Dave Yates inquired about the plans required to develop a playground. Further he questioned whether we want to use recreation fees for Bensons.

Bob Iannaco asked about the size of the area available. Selectman Coutu indicated that the area is larger than the Board of Selectman room.

Selectman Coutu expressed to the committee that the Schafer Circle property could support a park in the south end of town.

Sue Laroche indicated that the committee would be doing the town an injustice if it did not investigate every opportunity for a park in the south end.

Selectman Coutu informed the committee that the Schafer Circle parcel was approximately the same size, possibly bigger than the Eayrs Pond lot.

Rupert Cote remarked that the intent of sending Jeremy Griffus to the Bensons Committee meeting was to ascertain interest in Recreation involvement, not to take on a project. The direction was to evaluate their support of our participation. Jeremy Griffus responded that he offered our support and they responded with the option of supporting a playground. Rupert Cote does not believe the Bensons project is far enough along to begin a playground construction effort.

Carl Dubois clarified that this is purely exploratory and that no decisions is required at this meeting.

Keith Bowen believes that any effort at Bensons would most likely require budgetary approval and that our present efforts should be directed at the south end of town.

Dave Yates recommended setting up a meeting with the road agent to walk the Schafer Circle property.

Sue Laroche made a motion for Dave Yates to schedule a meeting at Schafer Circle. Rupert Cote second, motion passed 9-0.

Rupert Cote questioned maintenance for the Bensons park and whether the recreation department would incur maintenance cost. Selectman Coutu indicated that all park maintenance would be paid by the town.

New Business

A) Proposed Program Fees

Dave Yates explained that program fees have not been changed for the past 3 years. He provided current rates and the rates for comparable programs in neighboring towns. Dave indicated the programs are mostly covering the costs.

General discussion ensued regarding rate increases and program involvement. The following program rate changes were voted on:

Summer Program	\$250 (first child)
Before/After Care	\$5 (new fee)
Men's Softball	\$60

Out of Town Men's Softball	\$100
Women's Softball	\$50
Out of Town Women's Softball	\$90
Babe Ruth Baseball	\$75
Invitational Basketball Tournament	\$225
Basketball (over 35)	\$60
10-Day Summer Pass	\$100

Rupert Cote entered a motion to accept changes as made and instruct Dave Yates to present new rates to the BOS at the earliest possible date. Bob Iannaco seconded. Further discussion ensued.

Keith Bowen recommended an increase of the 10-day book pass to \$100.

Rupert Cote amended the motion to include the 10-day pass increase. Bob Iannaco second, motion passes 8-0 with 1 abstention (Selectman Coutu).

Closing Remarks

Eric Horton inquired about the ice machine for the community center and was informed by Selectman Coutu that a new machine will not be provided for the center.

Sue Laroche gave a shout out to the Hudson Memorial school basketball teams for making the state final. 95% of the teams came up through the recreational basketball program. Second, Sue encourages parents to submit the basketball surveys to help improve the program.

Keith Bowen indicated that he had received very positive feedback regarding the basketball tournament.

Rupert Cote indicated that the cable committee will be holding an open house in April.

Carl Dubois asked if the Wacky Olympics is recreation supported. Keith Bowen indicated that it is sponsored by the Hudson Memorial PTA.

Bob Iannaco requested that the 5 year strategic plan be reviewed at a future meeting. Bob's intramural team will be joining the Winter Freeze tournament in Billerica, Ma.

Selectman Coutu expressed his enjoyment of comedy night events and was pleased that the committee will entertain Schafer Circle and is continuing its push to participate in the Bensons project.

Jeremy Griffus participated in the Snow Ball for the 5th and 6th graders at H.O. Smith. Keith Bowen explained that the school district received a communities grant to offset drug and alcohol use education. A committee was formed (HITS) to promote teen safety.

This committee has developed the Safe Homes Program and supported other initiatives to ensure teens are in safe environments. The Snow Ball event was for grades 5 through 9. Former drug users and alcohol abusers were at the HITS sponsored dances to explain their experiences.

Rupert Cote moved to adjourn the meeting, Keith Bowen seconded, motion passed 9-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Horton