

# MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

Thursday, November 12, 2015- 5:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Councilor Martin Pepin, Chair  
Councilors Jon McCallion and  
Martin Dumont.

Administration/staff present:

City Manager Bob Belmore  
Director Dave Sharples  
Recreation Supervisor Kristen Ducharme  
City Clerk Trish Harris

Various members of the community

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Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

## APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Councilor McCallion, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 2, 2015 meeting. The motion passed, 3-0.

## SPORT PROGRAMS: PARTNERSHIPS & AGREEMENTS

City Manager Belmore started the discussion by explaining that this is a regular meeting held by the Recreation Committee. He shared with the members of the community that there are several standing committees and what each committee does. He introduced the members of the Recreation Committee.

Councilor McCallion shared a slide show. The purpose of the slide show was to spur conversation, advance community recreation and to get all groups in one room. Councilor McCallion explained that he would like to see more of a community amongst the different groups and sports, by merging them to have everything under one umbrella.

He went on to say that the school and the city have a budget and it is getting cut every year. Fundraising is not easy, it is time consuming and there is not always good participation. He would like to see local businesses partner with the recreations. They could get a tax write-off.

There was lengthy discussion about finances and accounts; how the raised money would be allocated if all of the sports and recreations merged. There would be one treasurer. Different sports have different needs. Some require more equipment. There was question about what a team was supposed to do if they needed something, like Gatorade,

for example, during a game. How do they get the money for that? All of the details have not been worked out yet.

Councilor McCallion said the contribution would be spread across the board, but if there is a donation or fundraiser designated to a particular sport, then it goes to that account.

There was discussion about “pay to play” sports and how merging would effect the cost.

The local hockey team does not use a Somersworth facility. They have to pay high fees to rent the other facility, and needs to raise enough money to cover this. They are in a coop with another school, so this may not work for hockey.

There was discussion about websites. A community member mentioned that they could get a community website for 3 years at no cost. It would be on our own server and we would control this.

Superintendent Mosca, said this could work. They are not asking people to change dollars, but to sit together as a group to join and accomplish things together.

Create a 501c3, one bank, and procedures to keep kids safe by doing background checks on the coaches and volunteers that work with the children.

There was lengthy discussion about fundraising options, and fairness. It was discussed that if someone doesn't participate in fundraising, then a buy-out could be an option.

After lengthy discussion, Councilor McCallion asked who is interested in this idea. He asked that each sport choose a designee, then get back to the Recreation Supervisor, Athletic Director or to Councilor McCallion so they can form a committee to see if there is a way that this can happen. They should map out the logistics then come back to the Recreation Committee with their findings.

There was a 5 minute recess.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor McCallion asked how we interact with the organizations that use our facilities and what type of oversight do we have. There is concern about how it could affect the City if there is a problem with the organization.

It was discussed that the City should modify the agreement they have with other organizations. Any organization that uses our facilities should have a Certificate of Good Standing, dated within the last 60 days. There also needs to be verbiage for if an organization is not a 501c3. A certificate of insurance, stating the City as the additional insured should also be required.

A motion was made by Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor McCallion, to review the agreement. All in favor.

The President of Babe Ruth, David Witham, shared that he was approached by the American Legion. They would like to donate \$5,000 for a new score board for the ball field at the Pines. They are requiring that 'American Legion Post #69' be printed on the scoreboard.

The current scoreboard is 6'X 4'. The new one will be 20' X 6'. President Witham shared photos of the proposed scoreboard with the wording required by the American Legion. This needs approval from the City Manager, and was approved after a brief discussion.

Dave Sharples shared that they are still working on installing the cameras at the Pines. They are waiting on a quote for digging the trench for the conduit. They hope to have this completed next week.

The gateway signs are up.

Kristen Ducharme was thanked for the work she did in getting the word out and planning for tonight's meeting. There was a very good turnout.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Dumont moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Trish Harris, City Clerk