

MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

Friday, October 2, 2015- 8:300 A.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
Deputy City Clerk Elise B. Brelis

Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 30, 2015 meeting. The motion passed, 3-0.

TIMBERLAND SERVA-PALOOZA PROJECTS

Recreation Director Kristen Ducharme had a handout with recreation program updates and a listing of projects that the Timberland volunteers worked on for Serva-palooza.

City Manager Belmore called it “tremendous; amazing!” He offered kudos for Kristen and Dave for the extra work they did.

Director of Planning and Economic Development Dave Sharples listed all the work that was done and the kayak demos.

Manager Belmore commented that this was a competitive process; (Timberland) looked at other cities. He said again that it was absolutely tremendous. There were other positive, excited comments offered by meeting members. Future possible ways of using the Mast Point Dam area were mentioned, including nature walks, using with recreation summer camp kids, fly fishing, bird watching, etc.

MAST POINT DAM NAME

Committee Chair Pepin said that the Mayor asked the Recreation Committee to discuss the possibility of changing the name of Mast Point Dam. The City Manager said that George Poulin of the Summersworth Historical Society told him that they used to cut

timber for masts there, which is how it got its name. There was agreement that Timberland's generosity to the City warranted thanks and also talk of all the help the City received from Liberty Mutual in the past. Councilor McCallion talked about a boat launch and a pavilion which could be named. Councilor Dumont thought there could be plaques placed on the property to recognize these company's efforts.

Councilor McCallion, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to have the committee report back to Council that the consensus is not to rename at this time and that plaques to thank both Timberland and Liberty Mutual would be considered pending discussions with both companies. The motion passed unanimously.

RECREATION/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP & OVERSIGHTS

Councilor McCallion said that "there are already roadmaps out there and he wants us to take the lead." We should have one entity, he believes.

Councilor Pepin was concerned that organizations are territorial about what they collect and that we might not get buy in from them.

Manager Belmore said that after follow up meetings, after the meeting with Portsmouth High School Athletic Director Rus Wilson, homework was assigned and they are looking at job descriptions, budgets and facilities to try to see the pros and cons of combining.

Councilor McCallion believes we need to strengthen these organizations because they are leaving (fundraising) money on the table. He gave an example. He wants one (entity), one form, one insurance policy, etc.

The City Manager said that they could bring the organizations together to see if there is an appetite for this.

Councilor Dumont believes Somersworth would benefit greatly from this. He likes the idea of meeting. As Rus Wilson said, it may not be an overall savings, but eliminates a lot of anxiety and frustration. The committee wants to schedule an evening meeting, maybe 6pm, when they get the report back.

Councilor McCallion is going to try to get someone from Bedford to come down. CM Belmore thought the first or second week of November would be a good time.

MISCELLANIOUS.

Councilor Dumont reported that "Marcel's Lilies," which are being planted at the Ward 3 polling place, will be completed in time for the November 3rd election. The plaque and the plants were donated.

Dave Sharples gave update on the camera for Noble Pines and discussion centered on quotes, expense of running a line from the SAU building, heating, wireless connections, etc. He said that he is being told that residential vs. commercial is very different.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Pepin moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise B. Brelis, Deputy City Clerk