

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
May 5, 2017, 9:15 am.

Committee Members present: Councilor Martin Pepin, Chair
 Councilor Martin Dumont, Vice Chair
 Councilor Jonathan McCallion

Administration/Staff present: Recreation Director, Kristen Ducharme
 City Manager, Bob Belmore
 City Planner, Shanna Saunders

Others: Trish Harris, City Clerk
 Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk

Councilor Pepin called the meeting to order at 9:15am

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor McCallion, to accept the minutes of the March 31st 2017 Recreation Committee meeting, the motion passed unanimously.

STEIN PARK

City Manager Belmore presented a letter about Stein Park project, letter is liked by all. The letter explains where Somersworth is heading as a City and asking for donations to make Stein Park a place to pay tribute to our Veterans and the Community. Councilor Dumont requested that all City Council sign the letter. Director Saunders said scheduling a meeting before end of June would be better. Evening 6pm meeting on a Thursday was agreed upon, date to be determined. The idea of the Chamber of Commerce getting involved was shared by Councilor McCallion. Director Saunders stated that this should be more of a “Hi nice to meet you!” type of meeting. City Manager Belmore will talk to Director Saunders and Ducharme and agree upon a date. Corporate names of: Target, Aclara, Liberty Mutual, Contitech, Velcro, The Works, Home Depot, Wal-Mart as potential corporate donations. A plaque of all corporations who donated will be displayed at the park.

Councilor Dumont asked if we are monitoring Mast Point Dam. He was concerned with what may be happening in the early AM. Director Saunders said she will look into it.

DOG PARK

Ducharme has been looking for what Council would like from her for information. She researched a few surrounding cities. Longhill Dog Park in Dover is 1 acre in size, cost was an estimated \$13,000 to construct. Most used for fencing. Maintenance was done by users. Parking

in Dover has been an issue with only 16 spaces; they also have ball fields in that area. Merrimack had 200 spots, and has no issue with parking.

Director Saunders stated that she and Ducharme discussed about turning existing parks into dog parks. They had a hard time deciding where a current park would fit, and came to the conclusion that no existing park would work. City Manager Belmore stated Malley Farm as a possible idea. Councilor McCallion agreed. Money and/or funding and maintenance could be difficult to create a new dog park. Councilor McCallion stated people care about their dogs, they could start a dog park group, go fund me page etc.

Councilor Pepin stated that we need work on our own current parks instead of a dog park at this time. Councilor Dumont stated to let a private sector take on a dog park. Maintenance on the park will be too much for city to handle. Councilor Pepin stated it's a headache and extra strain on current employees. Director Saunders stated current parks allow dogs, just pick up after dogs and leash them.

Councilor Dumont makes a motion to make it a private sector. Councilor McCallion seconds, all in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor McCallion received an email from summer basketball coach that there is no gym available and would like to utilize St Laurent basketball court, would like to have it repaired, if possible. Councilor Dumont asked if there were any gyms in the schools available. Councilor Dumont stated to contact housing for their gym. Councilor McCallion asked if someone can find out why none of the gyms are available for the summer. Outside court on Blackwater Rd is used often, stated Councilor Dumont. Councilor Dumont stated coach should contact the athletic director for more assistance. City Manager Belmore stated that St Laurent Park is no longer a park; it has been decommissioned by council. City Manager Belmore said plan for resurfacing courts on Blackwater Rd. Money will need to be spent for some improvements. Director Saunders will get figures. A name of Blackwater Rd Basketball Courts-BRBC was talked about.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dumont motioned to adjourn, Councilor McCallion seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:42am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk