

PERINTON RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2012

PRESENT: Chair Al Chesonis, Advisory Board Members Mike Coppola, Jayne LaFay, Dave Schaeffer, Jim Donahue, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks Jeff Myers, Director of Recreation Diane Riesenberger and Director of Parks Stacey Estrich.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the December 1, 2011 minutes by Board member Dave Schaeffer, seconded by Board member Jim Donahue; minutes approved.

COMMISSIONERS MYERS' REPORT

OCCUPY MOVEMENT IN PARKS

As a result of a decrease in media attention that it has recently received, it seems that the "Occupy" movement across the country has begun to lose its' momentum. However, it is still holding strong in many cities. To this point, a direct impact has not been felt in the Perinton area, although the City of Rochester has been dealing with an encampment in Washington Square Park. I feel it is important for our department and agency to ascertain the lessons learned by those municipalities that did experience the movement first hand, in hopes of developing a strategy for future civil protest encampments that may occur in Perinton.

In the effort to protect the rights of all our citizens, there needs to be some sort of balancing point between the right to assemble and protest on public land, and maintaining a minimal impact on the assets that we manage.

I share with you an open letter written by the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of Portland, Oregon, to the participants of Occupy Portland. In the letter, Commissioner Fish asks the protesters to consider whom their actions are really impacting, that being the taxpayers that Occupy Portland claims to represent. He points out that it is the taxpayers that will borne the expenses accrued by the city to restore their city parks to a pre-encampment condition. As of the October 17, 2011 letter, these expenses were estimated at \$19,000. As a side note, the friction between the city and the encampment escalated and much more devastating and permanent damage occurred to the parks, including limbs being cut out of historic trees, and a majority of the ground vegetation being destroyed. In addition, residents of the City of Portland attended several city council meetings following the publishing of Commissioner Fish's letter, demanding that the city discontinue spending taxpayer money to support the movement.

Perinton Town Code Chapter 159, sections 3 and 4 have been established to protect our parks, including a full list of prohibited acts (section 3), and Park Operating Policy (section 4). As stewards of our parks, the Recreation and Parks Department, along with the town leadership should make a commitment to adhere to and uphold the established rules and regulations of park usage. We must find that balancing point of permitting First Amendment free speech, while protecting the public's right to use and enjoy the parks as well.

COLLEGE CLASS PRESENTATION

On Saturday, December 17th, Jeff Nutting and I attended a college class at the SUNY Brockport Metro Center. Our purpose was to serve as judges for a business management class that was assigned a research project. The project for this class was submitted early in the semester by Jeff and myself. The wording was as follows: "In today's weak economy, municipalities are being pressured to hold spending flat, or more so, cut spending. How can (Perinton Recreation and Parks) convey the importance and relevance of the programs and services we provide, to avoid the call to cut spending?"

Six teams of students worked on the research project. On the final week of their 6 week class, each team had to make a 10 minute maximum presentation to the panel of judges. The resulting presentations varied in quality from poor (very little work done on it), to excellent. The two lowest quality presentations failed to answer the original question, and simply explained what our agency does. The winning presentation singled out a focus group of our participants, teenagers, and created an ad campaign, including a 60 second Public Service Announcement, to reach out to them. This group was awarded certificates of appreciation and aquatic center passes. The class instructor, Dr. Don Borbee, has asked Jeff and me to work with his marketing class this semester. The team's presentations are available for Advisory Board members to view.

YEAR END BUDGET UPDATE

Preliminary year end budget numbers are being shared tonight, in the Income and Expense Summary Report, and the Fund Appropriations comparison. All encumbered accounts payable need to be applied to the appropriate budget lines prior to finalizing the 2011 budget. Our Deposits to Supervisor for the month of December were \$103,187.52 and \$33,924.50, totaling \$137,112.02. Last December (2010) the Deposit to Supervisor totaled \$105,022.08. We had a very good month last month. Our Full Year 2011 (\$1,528,613.29) showed an increase of \$11,140.89 from Full Year 2010 (\$1,517,472.40). It appears as if we have surpassed our revenue goal for 2011, and stayed under our budgeted expenses.

TOWN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The 2012 Organizational Meeting for the town was held on Monday, January 2, 2012. Former Advisory Board member Steve Van Vreede was officially sworn in as the new Town Board member. In addition, Jim Smith, Joe LaFay, Jen West and Tom Klonick were all sworn in for a new term by State Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Frazee. Congratulations to all.

BIDS

On Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 1:00pm, all received bids for Recreation Equipment, Arts & Crafts Supplies, Wearing Apparel and Janitorial Services will be opened by the Town Clerk. The bids will be tabulated, and a recommendation will be forwarded to Town Board for awarding the bids. This is an annual process.

PERINTON RETIRED MEN'S CLUB

On Tuesday, January 3, 2012, The Retired Men's Club installed their officers for the year. Serving another term as President is Roger Matyjakowski; Vice President is John Wright; Treasurer is Ray Koenig and Secretary is Phil Klei.

DEPARTMENT INTERN

Beginning Monday, January 9th, we will be joined by another SUNY Brockport student while she conducts her 15 week internship with our department. Erin Nichols is a native of Greece, NY and is currently in her senior year of the Recreation Management major. We look forward to working with Erin.

DIRECTOR ESTRICH'S REPORT

The Town of Perinton was not awarded the grant to improve Egypt Park. After reviewing the awards it appears that the OPRHP made no attempt to spread the money around. Only a few projects were awarded in the Finger Lakes Area. In addition, during the application process the Regional Economic Development Councils were formed. We feel this may have changed the criteria on which applications were awarded. Our consultant, Barbara Johnston, and I are inquiring about the application award process and how we can improve on future grants. Egypt Park improvements are still moving forward. A list of improvement projects is being evaluated on available funds and safety priorities.

On Tuesday December 27, park staff noticed four aluminum picnic tables missing from Egypt Park. The following day, three more were stolen. 911 was called for police reports and metal scrap recycling centers notified. Wednesday afternoon I was called by Deputy Holtz to identify three tables brought to Alppo. Alppo called 911 and delayed the individuals until police arrived. On Tuesday January 3, 2012 the two individuals were prosecuted in Town Court. Three of our tables are salvageable. The other four were brought to a recycling plant in Shortsville. We recovered the aluminum tops but the legs were cut by the convicted for short steel pricing (better price). Total replacement value of \$7933.88 was stolen. I'm very pleased with the parks staff awareness and help, combined efforts from Wayne, Yates and Monroe County Sheriff Department and the DA's office indictment.

Staff has completed the annual maintenance of Fellows Road Park building. During these few weeks some electrical concerns were noted and solved. The building reopens January 9, 2012. Both Perinton Park and White Brook are undergoing annual maintenance.

Perinton Park has a new telephone/ alarm wire. Multiple issues have occurred over the year and finally frontier installed a new line. They discovered the old line was broken in two spots. Apparently this never happens and they don't know why it broke. Our alarm system is up and running with no problems.

The Village ice rink finally opened Friday December 30 and closed December 31. The rink has since reopened. Due to the fluctuating temperatures some large cracks have formed causing some minor maintenance concerns.

The Parks Operations Center annual HVAC system was serviced with no issues.

The Town's Fire Marshall has inspected and passed all four buildings (Operation Center, Fellows Road, White Brook and Perinton Park).

After evaluating two large area mowers, the parks department has decided to make a change and purchase a Toro 5900-D. The Toro mower costs \$76,522.44.

DIRECTOR RIESENBERGER'S REPORT

RECREATION PROGRAMS

RECTRAC

Fall 2011 totals \$202,737.67.

There were 3,482 participants enrolled in 344 programs.

Winter 2012 currently at \$39,599.00

There are 919 participants enrolled in 231 classes. January 3 began winter program registration.

FACILITY USAGE

December totals 2011 – 25 reservations for a total of \$4,963.50.

2011 Totals – 407 reservations for a total income of \$76,372.50.

PROGRAM REVIEWS

Parents Night Out – Our trial Parents Night Out program was held on Friday, December 9. We had 17 children enrolled. Reviews of the program were very positive. Our goal is to hold a monthly evening out for parents and fun night for children beginning in January.

Schoolbreakers – This program took place on December 15 and 16 when elementary children had off from school. The program generated a net income of \$181 and everyone had a great time.

Brunch with the Grinch - This program was held on Saturday, December 3. There were 68 in attendance. This continues to be a popular holiday event.

Flat Screen Sponsorship – It was recommended that this proposal was a good start to the implementation of a department wide policy and should be presented to the Town Attorney. After several discussions with Bob Place, our Town Attorney, we have pulled our idea for flat screen television advertising. Bob suggested that Diane Riesenberger check with other towns in our area to see if they had any policies in place. Diane checked with several municipalities and there did not appear to be any. Bob said that he will be happy to attend a meeting to discuss this with the Advisory Board. He said it was hard to put limitations on commercial free speech.

Holiday Gift Certificate Special – For every \$40 in gift certificates to the Community Center, patrons received a \$5 gift card for the PCC to be used after January 1, 2012. This special was during the month of December. We gave out 32 gift cards.

Teen Center – There was a full house at the Teen Center on Friday, December 2. Eighty nine people attended the Unplugged program. In early December, 9 packages with assorted items were mailed to 3 soldiers with local ties serving overseas, including 6 cases of Girl Scout cookies. The Teen Center received a check last month from EZ Bottle and Can Return for \$54.00. To date, \$923.75 has been raised from the bottle and can collection program plus \$418 in cash donations, totaling \$1,341.75. This money is used to fund the mailing of packages to the troops.

55 Plus – The Holiday Dinner and Lights program had 110 people in attendance. Everyone had a great time and the weather really cooperated this year. The Christmas lunch featuring singer Karen LaBella was also extremely well attended. Grandparents and their grandchildren were entertained by “Rich the Magic Man” on Family Day which remains a popular program.

2012 Bicentennial – The next Bicentennial meeting of all committees will be January 10 at 7:00pm, in Room 208B of the Community Center. Jeff Myers and Diane Riesenberger have been working with the Executive Committee. The banners have been received for placement and there is also a traveling banner. The RPO will be playing in the amphitheater on July 8, time to be determined. Details are being finalized. The Recreation Department will be very busy in the months ahead making sure this is a wonderful town celebration.

2012 GOALS REVIEW

The board members discussed the draft of the 2012 department goals with the staff members. One edit to the draft was suggested. It was also suggested and agreed upon that the board would table this discussion until the January 26th meeting, and conduct a side by side comparison of the 2012 goals, with the 2011 goals.

AROUND THE TABLE

Advisory Board member LaFay requested a Calendar of Meetings Dates with proposed discussions for each date.

Advisory Board member Donahue informed board and staff of new directive from Governor's office that requires all pertinent documents for public meetings to be available on the internet prior to the meeting date. Information to follow.

Advisory Board member Schaeffer advised board of a fallen tree on Horizon Hill trail, which broke a bridge.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm. The next Advisory Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 26, 2012 (January business) at the Perinton Community Center in Room 211 at 7:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Myers, CPRP
Commissioner of Recreation and Parks