

**TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO  
RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MEETING  
January 14, 2013**

**All minutes are considered a draft until approved at next board meeting**

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Board met on Monday, January 14, 2013 at the Gibson Aiken Center in the Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order by Peggy DeAngelis at 6:00 p.m.

Attending was board members, Peggy DeAngelis, Renee Woliver, Betsy Gentile, Bonnie Carr, Bob Neubauer, Director Carol Lolatte, Assistant director Jessy Cudworth and Administrative Assistant Kim Isaacsen.

Motion to approve minutes for November 19, 2012 meeting made by Betsy Gentile seconded by Bob Neubauer, minutes for November meeting were approved as written.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**WEST RIVER PARK UPDATE:**

- Noontime Rotary donated \$22,000.00 from the 2012 Golf Tournament. They have donated \$48,500.00 over two years.
- We received a grant from the State of Vermont Buildings and Ground for \$14,745.00.
- We received a \$40,000.00 pledge from the VT Community Foundation – Withington Fund.
- Wayside Fence has started putting the fence posts in around the softball field.
- A Fundraising Committee is set for January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00am
- A Full Committee meeting is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Brownie Towle has been able to get donations to reduce to cost of the maintenance building to less than \$10,000.00. The donations include concrete from Washburn Vault, forms for the concrete from Eugene Frost, and excavation from DMI.

**CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE:** Carol has submitted a grant to the VT Community Foundation – Withington Fund for \$12,000.00 for improvements to the basketball court at Crowell Playground and basketball/tennis courts at Living Memorial Park.

**RINK COMPRESSORS:** The 60hp compressor failed on 12/31/12, the 100hp compressor failed on 1/11/13. The 60hp was rebuilt and is up and running. Carol is currently reviewing options of repairing, replacing or upgrading from industrial to commercial equipment. The current failure was caused by the rings breaking apart and going through the system. Carol will recommend both compressors be replaced for \$172,000.00.

**SKATEBOARD UPDATE:** We have received 2 options from the design firm. The BASIC Committee will review both designs Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup>. After a design is

chosen the Committee will need to present the design for final approval to: The School Board, The Planning Office, Brian Bannon/Chair of the DRB and to the Selectboard.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PROGRAM REPORT:**

- Youth Basketball program going very good.
- Girls Basketball is now part of a league that includes Hinsdale, Vernon, Northfield and Erving.
- The Rec will be hosting a tournament for the 3-4th grade girl's basketball program on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 3 new programs will be starting: Hula Hooping, Circus Arts & Parkour, these programs were not in the brochure but Jessy is getting information out to the media.
- Senior Center will have a presentation from a physician in February for Healthy Heart Month.
- We have had 15 New likes on Facebook

**WINTER CARNIVAL:** Carol shared Recreation and Parks side of the Winter Carnival Flyer that will be going out to schools. This flyer has a much larger distribution group and goes to several of the surrounding town's schools. Winter Carnival will be February 15<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>.

**BUDGET:** No changes to the budget since the last Rec Board meeting. Carol will go to the Selectboard with the compressor issue; it may be added as a special article to Town Meeting.

**ICE TIME:** Representatives from Women's Hockey and The Figure Skaters Club were present at the meeting. Some concerns regarding Figure Skating Club ice time and the lack of numbers on Thursdays from 8-9pm has been brought to the Board's attention. This is not the first year that these particular concerns have been raised. For the past several weeks rink staff has been tracking the number of skaters on the ice from 8-9 on Thursday evenings. On 11/29 at 8:35 there were 4 skaters on the ice, 12/6 at 8:20 there were 2 skaters on the ice, 12/13 at 8:23 there were 3 skaters on the ice, 12/20 at 8:30 1 skater on the ice, 12/27 at 8:15 1 skater and at 8:30 no one was on the ice, 1/10 at 9:00 4 skaters were getting off the ice. Carol Lolatte advised that it is up to the organization that is renting the ice as to how they manage their ice time. Primetime ice is given to youth and the figure skaters numbers have gone up and down in the past years. Sharon and Alice were present representing the Women's Hockey and Sheldon, Mark and Alyson were present representing the Figure Skaters.

For Women's Hockey the issue is that they have difficulty scheduling home games at 9:15 in the evening because the teams they play travel a significant distance. It is difficult for players and coaches because they travel such a distance, the group would like to practice earlier in the evening.

The Figure Skaters have a whole new board as of 2012. The Figure Skating Club currently has 50 participants in there programs and has just over 6 hours of ice time per week; there Thursday time is laid out so that Basic Skills starts at 5:30, higher level basic skills, technique and free style at 6:30, free style and adult at 7:30-9:00. Elite skaters use the last hour, currently they have 5 skaters contracted to use the ice for that hour. They would always have less than 10 skaters on the ice during that hour for safety reasons. The 8:00pm hour is for advanced skaters to practice jumps and more advanced moves and less is better on the ice during that hour. The 8-9 hour is a financial loss to the Figure Skaters Club but they are concerned that if they did give up some of this time they would not get it back if they had more of a need for it, they have a delicate balance between rinks, ice time and coach's time.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION REQUEST:** Peter Gaskill from the Conservation Commission meet with the board about the Park on Stockwell Drive being underutilized. Peter is interested in the development of a trail from Stockwell Park to Western Ave, currently there are trails that run along the Whetstone Brook. Peter is working with the West Brattleboro Association and BAJC property owner to develop the trail system. The Conservation Commission wants to work with local land owners to utilize local land for the trails. Peter is looking for support from the Recreation and Parks Board but no financial burden on the Recreation and Parks budget. Betsy Gentile made a motion to support the project with no financial burden on the Recreation and Parks budget, seconded by Bob Neubaur and all board members voted in favor of the motion.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**PLAY INC:** Bob Neubaur agreed to be on the PLAY, Inc. Board.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn by Renee Woliver, 2nded by Betsy Gentile and at 6:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Isaacsen*

Kim Isaacsen, Administrative Assistant