

**TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO
RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2013**

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Board met on Monday, September 9, 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 were board members, Bonnie Carr, Sam Rowley, Betsy Gentile, Renee Woliver, Marty Rancourt, Peggy DeAngelis, Director Carol Lolatte and Administrative Assistant Kim Isaacsen.

Motion to approve the August minutes was made by Betsy Gentile and 2nded by Bonnie Carr, all members voted in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

WEST RIVER PARK UPDATE: The benches, grills and tables have been installed. The maintenance building has been completed, but still needs to be painted or stained. The park has been getting a lot of use from swimmers, kayakers and canoes. We have received feedback regarding the lack of shade and bathrooms. Carol is getting a price to complete the sewer service and the concession/restroom building. Carol is also looking into getting pricing for some shade trees. The project has received an unexpected \$10,000.00 donation from the Henderson Foundation.

RINK COMPRESSORS: The Selectboard has approved a bid to replace the 60 & 100 horsepower compressors. The Selectboard has appointed members of the community to a Skating Rink Committee. Two Rec & Park Board members have expressed an interest in being a liaison between the Skating Rink Committee and the Recreation and Parks board, both Renee Woliver and Marty Rancourt have been given information about the upcoming Committee meetings. The Skating Rink Committee held their first meeting on September 5th and had a walk through of the rink and was given a packet of background information regarding the compressor project. The appointed Committee's task will be to review all the options available and return to the Selectboard with 2 or 3 options to choose from, the Committee will suggest the options that are the best fit for Brattleboro. The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 30th at 5:15.

POOL ENGINEERING SERVICES: Two bids were received in response to the RFP, Aquatics Group for \$25,000.00 and Bergmann, Hendrie & Archetype for \$70,000.00. Selectboard has awarded the bid to the Aquatics Group. Carol has scheduled a site walk for September 17th. The pool was built in the 50's and renovated in the 80's, some areas that will be reviewed in the process are the filter plant, rest room/changing area, the cracking in the deck and addressing significant water loss that happens when the pool is filled.

ESTEY GAZABOO: Carol is getting prices to fix pillars and floor decking; we currently have \$6000.00 in the budget to make the repairs needed.

GYM FLOOR: Gym floor was resurfaced on September 3rd, 4th & 5th, the gym will be closed until September 30th.

SKATEBOARD UPDATE: Committee is looking at cutting the overall size of the project. They are considering down sizing the project to a 6000 square foot skatepark. The DRB permit has expired, if Committee does not down size they will only need to go back to the DRB, if they decide to downsize then they will need to go back to the DRB, Schoolboard and Selectboard. The Vermont Land Trust has decided to withdraw their pledge of \$25000.00 to this project, due to other project requests that are a better fit for their mission statement.

NEW BUSINESS

PROGRAM REPORT:

- Gymnastics has a new Director Amanda Montgomery, she is running more classes and classes are well attended.
- Soccer registration went well, we are still taking new registrations, we will be using West River Park for games and practice for 1st – 6th grades.
- Field Hockey registration went well; they will be traveling to Bellows Falls and Keene for games this year.
- Chess Class had good numbers for the first sessions.
- Offering a new Flag Football program we will need at least 30 kids to run program.
- New session of Yoga/Pilates and Kickboxing starts September 8th.

GIBSON AIKEN CENTER: Gibson Aiken Center is scheduled to open on October 21st. Evening programming and open gym are scheduled to begin on October 21st.

RINK SCHEDULE: The Rink is scheduled to open on October 26th. Carol will be conducting the staff training on October 14th.

Due to the expense of replacing the compressors Carol proposed to the board that they make changes in the fees charged for public skating on Saturday mornings and Monday evening. In the past Saturday morning is free and Monday evening is dollar night, Carol proposed that Monday evenings the regular rate be charged and Saturday morning a rate of one dollar be charged. Bonnie Carr made a motion to change the rates to the regular rate on Monday night and dollar day on Saturday, the motion was 2nded by Betsy Gentile and all board members voted in favor of this change.

This year one of the user groups has decided not to come back and other groups have cut the hours they are using the ice. This loss has left holes in the rental schedule, Carol is reaching out to other user groups to try and fill these empty slots, she is also considering reaching out to a group of users who were interested in possibly starting a Curling program.

LMP SNOW SPORTS: The advertising request is still a work in progress; they hope to have something for the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BOARD MEMBERS: Renee Woliver was considering resigning from the board due to time constraints; however after lengthy discussion with Carol and the Board she has decided to stay with the Recreation and Parks Board.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21st at 6:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Bonnie Carr, 2nded by Betsy Gentile at 6:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Isaacsen

Kim Isaacsen, Administrative Assistant