

**TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO
RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2012**

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Board met on Monday, January 9, 2012 at the Gibson Aiken Center in the Conference Room.

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

Attending were Chairperson Peggy DeAngelis, Vice Chairman Ricky Davidson, Board members Sam Rowley, Renee Woliver, Betsy Gentile, Director Carol Lolatte, Program Director Jessy Cudworth and Acting Administrative Assistant Bonnie Carr.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed and the November minutes were approved as printed.

OLD BUSINESS

WEST RIVER PARK UPDATE: At the present time work on this project is on hold until spring. There is a fund raising meeting scheduled for Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Gibson Aiken Center in the Conference Room.

Carol reported that she was notified via e-mail that the Brattleboro Retreat has pledged \$25,000.00 to be awarded over the next three years.

Carol also has received confirmation of a \$25,000.00 Grant from the Windham Foundation.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE: Bids for the Registration Software Project went out and only 1 was turned in. This is a 75 page document which Carol said she has not read yet but will be meeting with the bid maker within the next few days to go over the contents of the bid. She will have a report at the next meeting. Carol went on to explain that this program is set up in three parts - registrations, facility management, and seasonal pass management. This will be a great improvement for the citizens of Brattleboro as well as the accounting and office tasks for the department. Carol also informed the Board that the new equipment pieces will need an area to be set up on and Peoples Bank has donated a larger desk for the office with ample space to accommodate them.

The Gazebo repairs are set to be done in the early spring as soon as weather permits. The steps and columns will be repaired and the gazebo re-painted.

SKATEPARK UPDATE: A mediation session is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2012. The Town Manager and Town Attorney will be in attendance.

Carol announced that BASIC will be holding an event on the first Saturday of Winter Carnival.

NEW BUSINESS

PROGRAM REPORT: Program Director Jessy Cudworth passed out her monthly report and went over it with the Board. She commented that the Christmas Vacation activities went very well and we had good participation.

JOB OPENINGS: Carol announced that Martha Dolan is no longer the Administrative Assistant for the Department effective December 15, 2011. Bonnie Carr is filling in until a replacement is found. The position has been advertised and applications close on the 18th of January, 2012.

Carol then announced that Irene Alexa, Senior Center Director passed away very suddenly on January 2, 2012 from accidental causes. Her service is scheduled for Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., January 10, 2012, at the Congregational Church. A reception will follow immediately at the Senior Center. Currently there is a Memory Book in the Senior Center for folks sign and add memories to. As for Irene's replacement, there are options being discussed and Carol will have a report at the next meeting regarding how this will be addressed.

BUDGET UPDATE: Carol reported that she has been held tight with the budget and a couple of items were cut, the Maintenance Building and a walk-behind mower. The requested addition of a maintenance person was nearly denied but Carol said she was able to keep that one in the budget. Also \$500.00 was cut from the Crowell Playground revamping but Carol feels she can find the lost money from somewhere to make up the cut. There will be revenue increases for softball as well as fees for user groups at the rink will increase by \$5.00.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Peggy reported Darryl Sawyer who served on this Board had passed away and she will send the family a sympathy card from our Board. It was also discussed that Senior Center Director Irene Alexa passed away unexpectedly on January 1, 2012 and Peggy will take any donations from Board members to make a contribution in her memory to the Senior Center. Carol told the Board that the Town will be supplying meat platters, flowers, coffee, punch, and table settings for Irene's memorial gathering after her service on the 10th.

At this time a discussion took place regarding asking for donations on all registrations to the West River Park. Sam Rowley then said he felt if this was done, BASIC might be offended that they were not offered the same opportunity for their project. After discussing this and how it should be approached, Betsy Gentile made a motion that we add the request as asking for donations to help make the Thomas Thompson Trust \$50,000.00 Match for West River Park. It was seconded by Ricky Davidson. After further discussion, Ricky Davidson amended this motion that gives people the choice of donating to either the TTT \$50,000.00 Matching Grant for West River Park or BASIC, The Skatepark Project. Sam Rowley seconded the amended motion. After more discussion, it was decided to table this until the February meeting and hopefully have the full Board here to address this and then make a final vote.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Gibson Aiken Center.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The Board then went into executive session to discuss an employee situation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie E. Carr, Acting Administrative Assistant

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