

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

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Board met on Monday, April 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, board members Betsy Gentile, Renee Woliver, Bonnie Carr, Marty Rancourt, Sam Rowley, West River Park liaison Paul Freed Director Carol Lolatte, Assistant Director Jessy Cudworth and Administrative Assistant Kim Isaacsen. Also in attendance were 3 community members.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed.

SKATEBOARD UPDATE: Carol reported that the skateboard park committee will be starting a publicity campaign, board meetings are being held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month, they are continuing the fundraising effort. On June 21st they have scheduled a Go Skate Boarding event. The discussion then turned community participation; Herbert Eisenberg stated that community members have formed an organization named the Tree Streets Neighborhood Association.

- He stated that they are the voice of the neighborhood where the skateboard park will be located.
- He stated that this association is concerned about the process that was used to determine the location of the skateboard park
- He presented a list of concerns to all board members
- TSN Association has presented a petition with 120 signatures to the Selectboard asking to reconsider location of park. TSN Association has identified 6 other area that they would like considered as locations for the skateboard park. Rec & Parks Board indicated that they also looked at LMP, WRP and Elm St as alternate locations for the skateboard park. All other locations considered were determined not to be suitable for the skateboard park. The decision to use Crowell Lot was made by the Selectboard; the Rec Board took direction from the Selectboard to move forward with the purposed location. A suggestion was made for TSN Association to review Selectboard meeting minutes for further information about current location being used. Selectboard has revisited the purposed skateboard park location at the last two meetings.
- Other concerns raised by TSN Association were ~ No bathroom facility, no personal to police/supervise use of park, enforcement of rules, hours of operation, number of people who will use park, relocation of current play ground, purposed size of cement structure, loitering in park. Rec & Parks Board response to concerns, they do not want park to be an eye-sore or nuisances to the community, addition of skateboard park should be considered an enhancement to existing park. Skateboard parks are more successful when they are visible to the community.

OLD BUSINESS

WEST RIVER PARK UPDATE: Some minor repair was need to grounds, trees and roads. The gates are in and look great. Irrigation is up and running. Work will begin with the engineer on punch list. Paul Freed reported that they may begin working with Career center on construction of the building in the fall. The kiosks are complete and can be picked up after payment is received.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE:

- New registration software training is scheduled for May 7-9, currently receiving hardware and completed some installation of hardware.
- We are getting some press in Reformer about Gazebo looking shabby. Currently Momaney Painters is in process of repairs and painting it's on schedule and should be completed by the end of April.
- SAGE has an event planned of April 14th on common.
- Pliny Park is getting new rain gutters, this work should be completed by April 13th.

NEW BUSINESS

PROGRAM REPORT: Assistant Director Jessy Cudworth passed out her monthly program report and senior center newsletter. Jessy is working on the Town Web Team, they received approval to customize current website to make more user friendly, currently waiting for feedback from other town departments.

- Youth sports sign-ups for Tee-ball, Small fry and Softball are down slightly, Lacrosse has the same numbers as 2011.
- Easter Egg had 200 participants
- Hoping to establish a senior gardening group

COMMUNITY GARDEN: We will be starting sign up's for returning gardeners on April 13th and new gardeners on April 23rd. Peter is helping to get the word out that garden plots are available. Peter has purchased some new berries and vegetables to help entice and maybe fill all 20 plots this year.

CAMPING ORDINANCE: Town Manager has asked Carol to meet with Town Attorney and help develop a no camping ordinance. Copy of newly developed ordinance was provided for all board members. New ordinance will help police when necessary to enforce no camping in parks. New ordinance will not affect current lean-to at Living Memorial Park, only help prevent unauthorized camping.

OTHER BUSINESS

LIGHT POLE AT LMP: Light pole at LMP was blown over during wind storm a few weeks ago, waiting for CVPS to replace, they will replace free of charge.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Gibson Aiken Center.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Isaacsen

Kim Isaacsen, Administrative Assistant