

MINUTES
Town of San Anselmo
Parks and Recreation Commission
Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Thursday, February 7, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners present: Donery, Childs, McInerney, Coleman, Kelly, Sullivan
Staff present: Mihan

Approval of Minutes: Minutes dated January 9, 2008

M/s, Kelly/Donery Ayes all, minutes approved

Open Time for Public Expression: None

Review Revenue and Expenditure Report: McInerney suggested that the commission have a discussion with the Town Council at the Joint Meeting scheduled for February 19, 2008. He suggested the commission be prepared to share the benefits of the recreation programs to the community and the budgetary challenges the department is facing. Donery stated that the recreation department gets little general fund support and that it is important for the commission to advocate for the department to receive more general fund support.

Kelly asked if there was a typographical error in the revenue report regarding kids' culture. Mihan suggested it may indeed be an error but he would check with Recreation Director Long to determine what the actual amount should be.

Kelly asked about the negative number appearing in the budget and asked how a negative number was possible. McInerney suggested the question be raised at the next meeting when Director Long would be present.

Childs asked about the plan for presenting the need for more money from the general fund at the upcoming joint meeting. McInerney stated that he thinks the council will stand in support of the recreation department in terms of the programs that are being offered, but that the Town faces severe budget challenges and the Town is facing tough decisions regarding the allocation of limited funds. He further stated that historically the council, although in support of the programs, have not offered to fund the programs while they are making choices to fund other needs of the Town. He thinks that the recreation programs are an important fabric of this Town and when the council is making decisions about allocating funds, they need to take a serious look at how these decisions are being made. McInerney said that when it comes down to it the Town is not funding its recreation program and he thinks that is a serious mistake.

Kelly stated that it is important to be realistic in light of the fact that 11 teachers have recently received pink slips and that funds are tight everywhere, so it may be difficult to get additional funds for the recreation department.

Donery indicated that it is important to recognize that the Town is providing support beyond the general fund. He suggested that internal service charges be built into the budget which would set aside money for replacement costs. Coleman asked Mihan if Long meets with the Finance Director to discuss replacement costs. Mihan indicated he did not know.

Coleman asked if the recreation department had plans to compete with Steve & Kate's. Mihan indicated that the department is involved in strategic planning and are preparing to offer programs that will be attractive to the public. He also indicated that it was important to convey the message to the Town Council that competition is a factor that needs to be considered when allocating general fund monies.

Donery suggested that the department survey the public as to what types of programs they are looking for. He stated that perhaps the public is looking for something other than what is being currently offered by the recreation department or the competition.

Sports Program Sample Document: Mihan presented a sample document that detailed the mission and goals of a sports program. He reviewed some of the key points of the document. Kelly stated that the rules looked less inclusive than SABA's. He further stated that he thought it was a good idea to memorialize the rules in a document so participants and parents can clearly understand what the program is about. McInerney asked if this was just the beginning and if all of the sports would have similar documents. Mihan answered that this was the beginning and that the plan is to have all of the sports have this information available.

Donery asked if there are any structural changes as a result of the documents. Mihan said not that he is aware of; the programs would remain structurally unchanged. Kelly commented on the rules as listed in the sample document and suggested that they be reconsidered. Sullivan asked if there are age levels and if there were plans to adapt the rules to the age and skill level of the participants. McInerney suggested that the mission statement reflect the level of competition.

Kelly suggested that any sports organization using Town fields should abide by the recreation departments mission statement.

Positive Coaching Alliance: Mihan reported that there is a coaching clinic offered by the Positive Coaching Alliance for parents, staff, and coaches.

Joint Meeting with Town Council: McInerney announced that there will be a joint meeting with the Town Council on Wednesday, February 19, 2008 at 7pm in the council chambers. McInerney shared with the commission his experience at the last joint meeting indicated that it was an opportunity to share with the council thoughts and concerns about the recreation program. Donery suggested that the potential development of a community center be discussed at this meeting. Coleman suggested that the commission and staff be prepared to discuss the Fairfax MOU. Kelly offered the suggestion of developing property owned by RVSD to develop a community center. Coleman recommended that the commission ask council to include the recreation director's salary in the general fund. He also suggested that the RSVD Superintendent be invited to the joint meeting.

New Programs in Spring Recreation Guide: Mihan reviewed the new programs that will be offered in the spring. Kelly suggested the department pursue instructors that would teach for free.

Future agenda items:

- Sports Program Structure
- Positive Coaching Alliance
- Recap Joint Meeting with Town Council

Motion to Adjourn: M/s Coleman/Sullivan Ayes all

Adjournment: 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Long
Recreation Director