

San Anselmo Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes – 11/17/09

1. **Meeting called to order** – 7:00pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Commissioners present: Tom McInerney, Doug Kelly, Gene Childs, Rebecca Sullivan, Casey Logwood, Rebecca Sullivan, Maria Kallmeyer
3. **Agenda Approved**
4. **Minutes Approved**
5. **Open Time for Public Expression:**
 - none
6. **Selection of Officers**
 - Doug Kelly was selected as Chairperson, Rebecca Sullivan was selected as Vice Chairperson and Denise Young was selected as Chair Pro Tem

7. **Commitment to Community Award**-First annual Commitment to the Community Award was presented to Carter Coleman in August. Question to the commission is whether or not to continue the program. McInerney stated that he liked the award, and thinks the commission should continue the program and award it annually. Sullivan recommended that the commission develop specifications for the award. Donery stated that the commission would need to build a framework and guidelines for this process. Kelly asked when this award would be presented. The commission agreed that September would be a good month. McInerney asked whether this award would be presented at the council or commission level. Kelly stated that he would like the award to be advanced to the Town Council level. Logwood added that it might be nice to present this award as part of an event. The commission agreed that the Country Fair Day event would be a logical choice for this. Donery stated that the presentation be made at the Country Fair Day event, followed by a presentation at the next Town Council meeting. Sullivan asked whether or not a plaque showing each awardee over the years would be created. Donery answered that one could be created and placed at the Rec. Dept. offices. The commission asked that Donery draft guidelines to be reviewed by the commission and to continue the discussion in early 2010.

8. **Green Field Initiative – Upper Brookside Campus** – Tracy Smith, Principal of Upper Brookside, sent a description of an initiative to rebuild the playing field at the Upper Brookside campus to both McInerney and Donery, who agreed to put it on the agenda for discussion. Kelly explained that the project was underway and was still in need of both funding and volunteer labor. McInerney asked if this is something that the Town would normally support financially. Donery stated that he brought the question to the Town Manager and that the Town does not have the funds to allocate to these types of projects. Sullivan asked if the Recreation Dept. uses the field. Donery stated that they do not. Kelly mentioned that SABA does use it. Sullivan asked if the Town uses the gymnasium at the school. Donery stated that it uses all of the school facilities for youth programs and that they are not charged a fee. Kelly stated that it is a federal law that school facilities are made available to local municipalities during non-school hours for community-based programs. McInerney asked if there is anything else the Town could do to help get the word out, such as using the Town

Manager's newsletter. Donery stated that he would ask about that. Sullivan stated that anything representing this project should be stated in a way that shows a benefit to the entire community. Kelly stated that he would check on the schedule for any upcoming work days.

- 9. San Anselmo Dog Park Steering Committee Draft Guidelines** – Donery passed out copies of the draft guidelines for the Dog Park Steering Committee. He welcomed Teri Rockas and Judy Kaufman, volunteer leaders at the Red Hill Dog Park. Donery reviewed the history of the development of the dog park. He stated that the intention of developing this steering committee was to formalize the current, informal group of volunteers and provide a structure that would deal with issues related to the park, and to provide ongoing input to the Town related to dog use in Town parks. Donery reviewed the guidelines. McInerney asked if this was a Red Hill-specific, or all Town parks. Donery stated that the scope would be the entire Town. Kelly asked about the size of the committee. He suggested that the size be seven members. Kelly also addressed the residency requirements. He suggested and the commission agreed that the residency requirements be adjusted to reflect a “majority of the committee be San Anselmo residents”. Sullivan suggested that the initial terms be changed from four-year to two-year terms, and that the initial terms would be staggered, and that some get one-year and some get two-year terms. Donery stated that this was standard practice and it would be done that way. McInerney stated that he thought requiring this committee be subject to the Brown Act was excessive. Donery stated that the Town Attorney advised that any ongoing Town committee, that is appointed by a body that is subject to the Brown Act, also would be subject to the Brown Act laws. Sullivan asked if having a liaison from the commission should be added to the document officially. McInerney stated that he feels that it does not need to be formalized. The commission agreed. Donery stated that, if approved by the Town Council in December, the application process could start in early 2010.

Recommended Changes: 1) Change residency requirements to majority of Town residents.
2) Change terms from four to two years.

Motion to accept San Anselmo Dog Park Steering Committee Guidelines with changes (Childs)/2nd (Kelly)/Unanimously approved.

10. Rec Reach Survey Results –

- 11.** -Donery presented the Rec Reach survey results and asked that the commission. Sullivan stated that there was a relatively low number of responses, and that that needs to be noted when decisions are being made. Donery stated that he agreed, and that he hoped to recognize trends in responses which could be helpful in certain areas. Kelly noted that there were some complaints about high fees, and that they won't be going any lower, and that people love Juan and the tumbling program, and that we should basically focus on the complaints, especially the valid complaints. He also noted that there was a theme about how poor the facilities are.
- Kelly noted that he read that it is hugely important to the younger children that they have the chance to play on the same sports team as their friends. He noted that understood how difficult this can be organizationally, but that he feels that it is crucial to make every attempt to do so. He stated that especially in a child's first experience in organized sports, it is important for them to have a positive outcome. Sullivan added that this can be difficult, and that some children are more

dependent on this than others. She stated that during the draft for these leagues, that last minute switches take place which can cause unbalanced lineups. She stated that she has a shy child who was drafted to a team where he did not know the other players and that he had the best experience he's had to date. She stated that there does need to be a balance and that this is an issue everywhere and there's no easy solution. Kelly responded that he is generally referring to the younger kids with this, and that kids nine and up may not need this. McInerney stated that he would like to know how coaches are recruited. He stated that he feels that there may a perception that the same parents coach every year, and that there should be efforts made to recruit new parents. Logwood stated that he understands how hard it is to get coaches, and that from what he understands Chris Thoennes reaches out to every parent to find coaches, and that most times he doesn't fill all the spots until the final hour. Sullivan stated that every year there are several coaches that create problems with their coaching style, and that these issues are not addressed and these coaches inevitably return the following year. She feels that this causes certain families to leave the program. She stated that it takes "more than a warm body" to coach a youth sports team. McInerney stated that any improvement in the sports programs would require that Chris not run everything himself. He asked about whether the "Positive Coaching Alliance" still provided training. Donery stated that this was tried a couple of years ago and that Chris had a difficult time getting coaches to attend and that only a handful did attend. It has not been instituted as a requirement primarily because this would be another hurdle in getting coaching commitments. He stated that ideally, there would be another layer of support for each sport, such as a parent oversight committee, and that this group could work on these types of issues and help give some additional structure and philosophies to each level including coaching requirements. He stated that at this point, the department does not have the capacity to take this on, and he urged the commission to explore this issue in 2010. Sullivan stated that she would be willing to work on this and that she and Donery could begin discussions in 2010 and bring some ideas back to the commission.

-Kelly stated that price, day of week and time of day were major indicators across the board as to why people sign up for programs.

-McInerney stated that it seemed that after school programs were important, and that the priority question will be helpful in future planning.

-Kelly suggested talking to the Library about providing homework assistance.

-Sullivan stated that some parents and probably some children would prefer to stay on campus and get their homework done. She stated that her daughter begs to attend a one day per week homework class and that she loves it.

-Kelly stated that there seems be a need for additional language classes.

-Donery stated that it has been difficult working with the School District in providing StayNPlay classes. They have basically shut down most avenues for marketing.

-Sullivan stated that there is an agreement created when the YES Foundation stopped providing after school classes through the YES Rec project. This agreement basically stipulated that the StaynPlay program would be afforded all of the access to marketing opportunities that YES REC enjoyed. Sullivan stated that she would explore why this has changed and she would report back to Donery.

-Kelly stated that due to time constraints, the summer camp portion of the report would need to be tabled.

-Donery stated that by the January meeting, his staff will be finalizing plans for summer. This is due to needing to meet the March catalog and online registration release timeline. Donery agreed to bring back a report on proposed planning, and that the commission could comment and provide direction then.

-Sullivan stated that it might be helpful for parents with younger children to have information about summer camps in January or February. Donery stated that the dept. is looking at March 8th. Sullivan stated that that is good, but maybe consider earlier for 2011.

-Kelly commented that we should be taking advantage of partnering with local private groups to market their programs. Donery stated that he agrees, and that the dept. is working with the String Letter Music School to market beginning guitar.

-Kelly stated that, as expected, most people stated that they would take advantage of an online registration system.

12. Staff Update

- a) Tennis Courts – National Surfacing Company is coming this week to assess courts.
- b) Red Hill JPA – No new news.
- c) Isabel Cook Center
 - Opening downstairs space in January. The CreaTech Studio will open an after school program in January. An agreement has been signed for Jan – Aug. Will reevaluate for school year.
 - Dept. will utilize other rooms for programs.
- d) Online Registration: Development underway. Training will happen in January, testing in February, launched on March 8th in conjunction with summer catalog release.
- e) Goblin Parade was a huge success. Estimated 500 attendees. Suggestions include having a costume contest and additional activities at Town Hall.
- f) Holiday Party: Scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th at Doug Kelly's house.

Future Agenda Items:

1. None stated.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55p.m.