

RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2015
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES: Dave Gonyea, Ravi Sharma, Sue Patneade, Dan Poisson, Dana Staples and Tizz Crowley

ABSENT: Phil Savignano and Eric Audette

- I. Minutes were reviewed. Motion made to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded. All in favor.
- II. Ingersoll Update
 - A. Dave Gonyea met with the city manager to discuss partnering with the YMCA as presented by Mayor LaBonte at the last council meeting, to express his feelings about the partnering situation. He stated that he would like to see the Ingersoll project go through on the next vote.
 - B. The next council meeting is Monday, March 16th. The reallocation of the bond money was already approved unanimously. Once the final vote has taken place, press releases and ground-breaking plans, a Facebook page and information for advertising will be prepared. The name of the building is to be determined, but the name "Ingersoll" will remain. Dave asked if it makes sense to hire someone to sell signage for Ingersoll, fields, etc. The signage at the Norway Savings Bank Arena expires in May. It was asked if a position could be paid for through Community Development. Unless sponsorships are pursued, they will disappear.
- III. New Business
 - A. Public Service Funding Application
 1. Our application for public services is submitted each year for CDBG funding. The advisory board must give its approval. The amount of \$40,000.00 is being requested this year. We have completed the application and it has been submitted. Motion by Sue Patneade to recommend that the department submit the funding request for the CDBG funding, for Ravi to have authorization to bind and negotiate the contract for the recreation department and to approve the increased amount from \$25,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Seconded. All in favor.
 2. The \$40,000.00 amount will help 80 to 125 children to participate in recreation programs.
 3. The grant has been updated according to its consolidated plan
 - a. Homelessness
 - b. Transitioning out of poverty

The focus while putting the application together included:

 1. Teaching kids skills like leadership, problem solving, discipline, strategy, overcoming challenges, etc.
 2. We have a reading program in our rec camp program, so kids get an appreciation for reading and continue with strengthening their literacy skills.
 3. If children are not engaged in programs, they will be doing something else, right or wrong.
 4. Ravi said that there are quite a few success stories for kids who have been in our programs and grew up and wanted to work for us so they could give back to the programs.
 5. The folks who qualify need safe and reliable child care that they can afford so that they can go to work or school. Traditional child care is not an option.
 - B. Review Recreation Stakeholder Meeting
 1. The point of the meeting was to discuss the YMCA partnering with the recreation department. It was determined that the two programs are too diverse to be able to join them together. They could partner for events. It was suggested that basketball teams from the Y, Boys and Girls Club and the Rec

Department could all play together in a tournament, for instance. It was felt that everyone should see how things shake out.

2. Ravi felt, after hearing the stats, that it became apparent that it was more about sharing facilities rather than joining programs together.

C. ALT (Androscoggin Land Trust) Mt. Apatite Proposal

1. Needs a kiosk at Small Road – ALT will donate the materials and time to build one
2. Improve the trail markings and map that has been developed. We are not sure when the trails were last updated. Signage needs to be updated.
3. Break up the red trail and color code some of the dead ends to make it less likely that one will get lost. Sue Patneade suggested marking the trails R (red) and B (blue) for those who are color-blind.
4. Welcome signage needs to be updated. Include signage around the city indicating how to get to Mt. Apatite.
5. Place a bike rack at the entrance
6. Mike would be willing to come back to talk about the proposal if necessary. Dave stated that the ALT has the board's full support to move forward.

IV. Open

- A. A question was asked as to whether or not Frank Bennett was trying to get back into recreation programs. There is a petition going around that people are being asked to sign for Frank to be allowed to play softball in the recreation department league. Ravi stated that the documentation states that there is no option for appeal.
- B. Ravi was asked to keep the board posted on the progress of the CDBG request. The council will be meeting on Monday, March 23rd. This will be a workshop item. Board members can go to the meeting and speak if desired. Sue Patneade asked if the department would get a second opportunity to speak about the request before a final decision is made. She urged the group to go forward and make a case so that the request will be approved. There will be another opportunity at the April 6th meeting.

V. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted
Jan Biron, Administrative Assistant