

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, January 10th, 2013
Town Hall – 9am

- I.* ***Call to Order*** – Mr. Pfohl called to order the regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee at 9am at Town Hall. Present were Advisory Committee members Jim Brooks, Gil Adams, and Tim Fox. Brie Powell, Recreation Program Coordinator, Randy Fiereband, Town Manager, Rory Ellington, and Alan Holcomb were also present.
- II.* ***Approval of Minutes*** – A motion to approve the December minutes was made by Gil Adams and seconded by Jim Brooks.
- III.* ***Recreation & Fitness Report*** – Mr. Fiereband requested that the presentation of the December Recreation and Fitness report be revisited at the end of the meeting. The copier was being repaired and the reports would be printed for the committees review as soon as the repairs were completed. Upon review of the reports Mr. Brooks made the comment that the daily visits had been low in comparison to the previous year and he raised the question, is there anything that the department needed to be doing differently. Mrs. Powell brought up the large number of daily visits that were brought in by the military group bookings last year that averaged 600 people per visit and accounted for the change in average daily visits.
- IV. Old Business:*
 - ***A) Fireman's Park:***
 - Mr. Fierebend informed the committee that everything in the park is complete and then turned the floor over to Rory to give a full update. Mr. Ellington informed the group that there is a wet spring that has surfaced under the slide and it is being addressed. As soon as the spring is addressed, the gravel will be delivered and the park will be ready to open. Mr. Brooks then suggested talking with Kelly Coffee regarding funding to fix the drainage issue. Mr. Pfohl voiced his opinion that we should utilize the material that we already have to fix the spring, and if it comes back, then we can take the issue to Mr. Coffee. Mr. Ellington agreed and does not believe that the issue is due to any

pipe leaks and that we can easily address the issue with the material that we have.

- ***B) Bark Park:***
 - Mr. Fierebend updated the committee that the street sign is up and that there had been some calls regarding the hinges on the gates. The hinges were being addressed by the outdoor recreation staff as we spoke as well as the rail that had split in the fence due to the wind and ice storms.
- ***C) Emerald Outback Easement:***

Mr. Fierebend informed the committee that there was no change in the status of the easement and that the issue should be resolved by late winter or early spring.
- ***D) Sunset Park Easement:***

Mr. Fierebend informed the committee that there was no change regarding the status of that easement. As it stands currently, it would behoove the owner of the property to grant the town the easement so they would be protected under the town's insurance policy. The reality of the situation with the park is that people will trespass onto their property with or without the easement. If they grant the easement, they would be protected as property owners.
- ***F) AAT Grant:***

Mr. Fierebend informed the committee that there was no change regarding the status of the AAT grant. It went through appropriations successfully and everything regarding the grant is on track.
- ***G) 10K Nationals:***

Mrs. Powell updated the committee on the status of the 10K National Trail Running Event. After speaking with Mr. Bryant the bid was granted to Beech Mountain, however the date would need to be changed in order to accommodate the World Championship. Mrs. Powell also spoke with Talia Freeman of Beech Mountain Resort and was informed that the resort would be accommodating to those changes as well.

V. New Business

- *A) Holiday Program Updates*
 - Mrs. Powell updated the committee on the success of the Holiday events and programs. The number of participants was steady with last year's events and programs with the exception of Breakfast with Mrs. Claus. She felt that the snowstorm the night before had an effect on the tourist's participation; however it was still a wonderful event with a great deal of local participation.
- *B) Snowshoe Race*
 - Mrs. Powell informed the committee that through collective decision of its members, due to inclement weather and trail conditions, the snowshoe race would be cancelled.
- *C) Town of Beech Mountain Master Plan:*
 - Mr. Scott updated the committee on the status of the Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Scagnelli has given Mr. Scott all of the written material that is in place thus far as well as all of the surveys that were taken and all of the public feedback that was received at all of the Recreation Forums that were held. Mr. Scott's plan is to evaluate all of the information as it stands, get a plan together in writing and present it to the Planning Board to evaluate and then present it to the Town Council for them to adopt. Mr. Pfohl asked if there was anything that the Recreation Committee could do to help and when Mr. Scott would like their input. Mr. Scott asked that no input be given until there is a rough draft in place. Mr. Fierebend addressed the Lake Protection Plan and the status of that zoning ordinance. Buckeye Lake is currently a Zone 1 however it was never taken to the State Board and passed. The town began working with Tom Boyd and it was then turned over to Jay Frick for new review with the intention of making the state quarterly meeting without encroaching on fishing and summer seasons when the lake gets the most use. Town Council did approve our plan and the Recreational Committee and Planning Board would have been consulted if there had been time before the quarterly meeting. The

issue of lake access was addressed and Mr. Fierebend assured the committee that the plan can be amended once it is approved.

- *D) New Director's Position*

- Mr. Fierebend updated the committee on the status of the Director's position. He and Mayor Owen decided to keep the selection process between the two of them until they had it narrowed down to the top three to six candidates. At that time, they will bring it to the Recreation Committee for their input. Mr. Fierebend expressed to the committee that his goal for the hiring would be to establish stability within the department and that the qualities he was looking for was not necessarily experience in recreation, but in organization and business. Mr. Pfohl asked if there was anything the committee could do to help and expressed the committee acceptance on any process that Mr. Fierebend and Mayor Owen preferred.

VI. Speak Out Session:

Mr. Brooks expressed his interest in the Chamber funding the A Cool 5 to keep the sponsorship local and would like that discussed in more detail.

Mr. Scott asked about a new dock at Buckeye Lake and the specifics of the location. Mr. Fierebend explained that the funding for the new dock at Lake Coffey was for either Lake Coffey or Buckeye Lake. The funds from A Cool 5 this year could be used towards a new dock at Buckeye Lake, but preferably for a floating path to keep from violating the recreational ordinance. This is something that the new director would be put in charge of.

VII. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brie Powell
January 29th, 2013