

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6th, 2008
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- I. **Call to Order** – Recreation Director Craig Colistra called to order the regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting at 9:05 a.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Present were Committee Members Mr. Pfohl, Mr. Mooradian, Ms. Simms, Ms. Piquet, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Smoot, and Recreation Director Mr. Colistra. Also present were Mayor Mr. Owen and Town Manager Mr. Boaz.

- II. **Chairman/Vice-Chairman nomination/election**– Mr. Mooradian moved to nominate Mr. Pfohl as Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Committee. Ms. Piquet seconded that motion. It passed unanimously. Mr. Pfohl moved to nominate Mr. Mooradian as Vice Chairman. Mr. Mooradian declined. Mr. Pfohl moved to nominate Barbara Piquet Vice Chairman. Mr. Smoot seconded and it passed unanimously.

- III. **Indoor Recreation-**
 - a. **Indoor Recreation Report-** Mr. Colistra presented the indoor recreation report to the committee and explained the structure and description of the report. Ms. Piquet requested to include on the report the attendance to each guided hike as well as information on the sledding i.e. number of days open. Mr. Smoot stated that including a head count at a designated time through the day would be beneficial. Mr. Colistra will include days open, usage statistics, and an incident report. After Mr. Colistra explained the vacant position at the Recreation Center, Mr. Smoot requested that job descriptions be provided so the committee could become familiar with the expectations and responsibilities of the staff. Mr. Pfohl made a plea for all committee members to visit the recreation center to become familiar with operations of the facility. Barbara moved to alternate the location of meetings between Town Hall and Buckeye Recreation Center on the first Thursday of each month at 9:00AM. Mr. Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

 - b. **February Calendars-** A discussion proceeded on the distribution of brochures and dissemination of information. Mr. Colistra will continue sending emails to businesses, displaying activities on Channel 2, and will fax activities as well as recommended by Mr. Pfohl. Mr. Colistra will also request to be a site on the employee tour of Beech Mountain and hold an annual Lunch-and-Learn at the Recreation Center for all real estate agencies. Mr. Colistra proposed a marketing strategy called the WHEN Network which would display activities on a plasma television screen located in the Fred's Deli. Mr. Colistra recommends this as an effective strategy for direct advertising to a wide range of visitors. Ms. Piquet informed the committee that the town did not approve it last year, Mr. Boaz added that it was not only an issue with funding, but an issue with the concept. Mr. Owen suggested discussing this item closer to the budget cycle.

- IV. **Outdoor Recreation-**
 - a. **Sledding Hill-** Mr. Colistra gave a brief update on the sledding hill stating that usage is consistent with previous years; Christmas Day had record numbers, and more visitors are traveling to the sledding hill from further distances, and staying longer periods of time. Mr. Brooks expressed concern of the loss of some snow

blowing opportunities Discussion continued on the difficulties of and many factors that play a role in making snow, and how they can be overcome. Mr. Colistra and his staff will continue to observe weather reports and make educated choices on when to blow snow, and request the services of Mr. Brooks when the temperatures are questionable. Mr. Brooks raised the question of mats for slowing down the hill; it will be re-visited for the next budget cycle.

- b. **Trails-** Outdoor staff has been taking advantage of the recent warm weather to clean trails and update kiosks. Mr. Colistra updated the previous Indoor Recreation Committee members on two trail projects that are being pursued; the extension of Falls Trail and a new Fishing Parking Area (letters have been sent to landowners). Ms. Piquet made a motion to apply for the NC Birding Trail Site nomination. Mr. Mooradian seconded that motion, and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Pfohl requested the outdoor staff stabilize trail signage and kiosks when they are driving by.
- c. **Playground-** Mr. Colistra gave an update on the community built playground project. The town has applied for the PARTF grant for \$50,000 (decisions are made at the end of May); the total cost is \$100,000. Currently a bill is due for \$14,000 to Leather's and Associates. Thus far the town has been unwilling to allocate any additional funds to the playground. Barbara mentioned the thought of postponing the project until 2009 to provide time to gain support. Mr. Pfohl stated that the committee should go on record as postponing until 2009. Mr. Colistra will talk with Leather's and provide more details to the committee on what would happen if the project was postponed.
- d. **Tennis Court-** Mr. Colistra informed the committee on a Tennis Wall that has been proposed by a Leonard Hayet. Ms. Piquet proposed including the tennis wall in a 5 year plan.

V. Additional Business-

- a. **5K-** Mr. Colistra proposed the idea of a 5K to the committee that has been discussed with some community members with a tentative date of June 7th. Positive response was received by the committee.
- b. **Independence Day-** Mr. Colistra proposed an event on July 5th at the Buckeye Lake Recreation Area that would include games, races, prizes and a band. Mr. Mooradian proposed July 4th as to not interfere with the Pig Roast. It was agreed to hold the event on Friday July 4th.
- c. Mr. Colistra will be developing a Recreation Needs Survey of the community and will be requesting input from the committee. Barbara requested the questions from the survey in 1995. Mr. Smoot suggested attending the homeowner annual meetings. Fred requested of Mr. Boaz in writing to provide the committee with expectations of the committee at next meeting. Mr. Smoot requested some clarification on the hierarchy. Mr. Boaz stated all staff are responsible to the Town Manager and the Town Manager is responsible to the Town Council. The responsibility of the Advisory Committee is to provide direction and input to the Recreation Director and the recreation director is expected to try and implement those suggestions. Mr. Owen stated that the town Council recently amended the Advisory Committee ordinance and will provide that at the next meeting.

Adjourn -- The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Colistra