

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 19, 2005
Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers
7:00 PM

Attending: Denny Byrne, Jane Crooks, George Lamb, Neil Niman, John Parry, Frank Pilar.

The meeting began at 1904.

I. There were no public comments.

II. The minutes of the previous meeting of 21 April 2005 were approved.

III. Mike Lynch of Durham Public Works discussed an Eagle Scout project by John Gearheart. This constituted a practice tennis backboard to be installed at the Father Lawless Field. Installation will be supervised by DPW. Need for a netting above the board was discussed and recommended. A motion to approve was made by Crooks and seconded by Lamb. Approved unanimously.

IV. Jane Crooks presented a report on town-owned properties. A listing of such properties and the subcommittee recommendations for action was presented. Comments were added by Conservation Commission members Beryl Harper and Dwight Baldwin indicating that although they were not against commercial use of the W. Arthur Grant property, they would prefer to see public use of in the near future. Town Council representative Niman agreed but reported that a developer is now considering a viable commercial use and, thus, the Town Council would not support including this property. He then made a motion to exclude this property from the report. Seconded by Lamb. It was also proposed that both the P&R and Conservation Commission be involved in any actions involving the W. Arthur Grant circle. Approval of the motion was unanimous. Crooks will present a report on this matter to the Town Council.

V. Chair Parry reported that a Master Plan Recreation Chapter update will take place in the future by the Town Council.

VI. Denny Byrne reported on a Vision and/or Mission statement for recreation with present emphasis on vision. Byrne indicated that senior citizens, who now constitute a significant fraction of the area population, are not well-served at present. He also indicated that the program will generate revenue and should have no net cost. The components of recreation to be implemented are not agreed upon at present. Byrne further suggested that partnerships with other relevant groups be considered to assist in planning.

VII. There was a brief discussion of a UNH Grant proposal for grooming XC-ski trails. Discussion will continue at our next meeting.

VIII. Under new business, it was reported that we plan to discuss the 2006 P&R budget request at our next meeting.

IX. Miscellaneous Matters. Tennis courts are to be inspected every five years. Byrne reported that the UNH swimming pool (originally constructed in 1927) will eventually cost ca. \$3M to upgrade. Providing that the Craig Supply contamination report is positive, the pool will open on 18 June and close the weekend following Labor Day.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2100.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank L. Pilar, Secretary