



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2011 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Koutroumpis, Kevin Adams, Monica Fanjoy, Linda Hunt Williams, Ken Henke, Marty Buckwald, Kari McCloud, Wanda Holloway

ABSENT MEMBERS: Stephane Daniel, Erin Massarelli

STAFF PRESENT: Julia Meder, Len Bradley

CALL TO ORDER: Peter called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF 02/10/11 MINUTES: Minutes approved.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT RECAP: Peter made a presentation to Town Council at the last meeting. He explained to Council the need to provide funding for recreation and the importance of putting recreational needs at the forefront of planning. He discussed the trends of health and wellness, the importance of field space, and keeping up with Town interests and demands. Peter said Council seemed receptive. It was recommended to the board to be creative about finding money. Peter emphasized utilizing resources, finding public and private funds, and making contacts, cultivating relationships. The board discussed creating a list of resources for the department.

LEN'S UPDATE ON HUNT CENTER & ART PROJECT: The pace has picked up at the Hunt Center but there have still been delays. The project is still behind schedule but the contractor is currently hanging sheetrock. The goal is to be in the new building by the first week of June. Bids were recently approved for fitness equipment as well as furniture and fixtures. Staff is currently looking at different bronze statues to be placed at the Hunt Center. The board had previously discussed raising funds to purchase this item. Len recommended the board find a corporate sponsor to pay for the art piece rather than attempting to fund raise. Two pieces were sponsored at the Cultural Center. Peter offered contacts for Rex Foundation and will be in touch with Len.

Len provided an update on the Town Council retreat. All board members received a copy of the report given at the Council retreat. Len presented to Council a packet of information regarding department needs, trends, growth vs. demand, and finance. The report included very accurate records for programs, showing increases in participation. The report also covered master plans for several parks, previous park land acquisitions, information on future acquisitions, and an inventory of department facilities. Based on department needs, Len recommended the Council move forward with a bond. Council was shown three different bond scenarios, \$10 million, \$20 million, and \$30 million. After much discussion, Council made the recommendation to move forward with a \$20 million bond by May 2012. If the referendum goes to the public in May 2012, it could be 2014 before the department is able to obtain funding and start on projects. Drew Holland, Finance Director, is currently working on a timeline and it will ultimately be up to Council to set a timeline. Council member Linda Hunt Williams explained that the bond could benefit the community and that it does not necessarily mean a tax increase. Council will have to see how the Town can pace the bond.

ADJOURN: There being no further items for discussion the meeting was adjourned.