

**Town of Pleasant Garden**  
**Recreation Board**  
February 26, 2008  
Kirkman Municipal Building  
4920 Alliance Church Road

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**Minutes**  
Regular Meeting

**Attendance:**

Vice Chairman Cristina Bragg  
Steven Brandt  
Jan Cox  
Chris Culler  
John Furlough  
Chairman Brent Lewis  
Wendy O'Brien

**Also in Attendance**

Bob Wyrick, Council Liaison  
Sandy Carmany, Interim Town Clerk  
Kim Payne, Acting Financial Officer

**Call to Order**

Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Chairman Lewis gave the invocation.

Chairman Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Interim Clerk Carmany called the roll, and all members were in attendance. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED by Mr. Lewis to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 meeting**, seconded by Ms. Cox. **APPROVED, 6-0.** *[Mr. Brandt was not sworn in yet.]*

**Oath of Office**

Interim Clerk Carmany administered the Oath of Office to new Board member Steven Brandt. Mr. Brandt signed his Oath and gave it to Interim Town Clerk Carmany.

**Unfinished Business**

*Litter Sweep:* Chairman Lewis referred to the Litter Sweep flyer in members' folders advertising the planned event for April 10-May 3 and noted that little had been done with it for the last couple of years. Mr. Furlough gave a brief history of Pleasant Garden's participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program. The Town Council approved participation several years ago upon the recommendation of the Recreation Board and adopted Pleasant Garden Road from Ritters Lake Road to Hunt Road. Equipment [*plastic bags, gloves, bags*] is supplied by NCDOT and anyone available to volunteer is encouraged to work when they can. Ms. O'Brien suggested announcing it on the Town website. Chairman Lewis suggested

advertising it in the *Pleasant Garden Post* and on the sign at the Fire Station letting people know that supplies are available at Town Hall and encourage them to volunteer over the two-week period. Mr. Culler suggested keeping track of who volunteers and thank them along with recognition in the *Post*. Ms. O'Brien volunteered to write a description letter, encouraging people to pick up litter on all roads, particularly in their own neighborhoods. Mr. Brandt agreed to assist her and create a form/flyer. Mr. Furlough asked that the Board not complicate the project – NCDOT has all the roads marked and assigned and people should be directed to NCDOT if they want to sponsor other roads.

*Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:* Vice Chairman Bragg stated that the Board needed to “book it and do it.” Chairman Lewis suggested it be done outside during warm weather, perhaps May. This event originated as Board appreciation and gradually expanded; in his opinion, Board members and their spouses and integral volunteers for big events should be invited, leaving soccer as a separate event. Ms. Cox was in charge of this event at one time and is willing to plan it again as a catered event. Chairman Lewis said there is still \$1000 in the budget to do it. There was further discussion about the lack of an accurate list of volunteers and how it could be compiled as well as the best day of the week to hold this event.

**MOVED by Chairman Lewis to set May 16 as the tentative date for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and that Board members bring their lists of volunteers to the next Recreation Board meeting,** seconded by Mr. Culler. Additional discussion focused on recruiting volunteers for future events, compilation of the guest list, the number of people expected to attend the dinner (80-100), and catering details. **APPROVED, 7-0.**

Mr. Furlough had to leave the meeting due to a prior obligation. *[No motion was made to officially excuse Mr. Furlough so his vote is recorded as a “yes” on all motions made after his departure.]*

*Other Updates:* Ms. O'Brien asked about preparations for the July 4 activities, sources from which to obtain the inflatables for the children's activities and the budget for the event. Chairman Lewis responded that there is \$1,000 budgeted and this would not be sufficient to have fireworks on both Friday and Saturday nights. A number of sources for the inflatable were suggested along with the need to book them early.

Vice Chairman Bragg reported that the Pleasant Garden Community Center likes the idea of the Saturday baseball games idea but wants the Recreation Board to be responsible for securing the teams. Mr. Culler suggested that some of the better teams should be selected for participation so that the games would be more interesting, and Vice Chairman Bragg suggested doing a “parents' night” with games between the coaches and the Fire Department, for example. Chairman Lewis said planning for this event would be done at the next Board meeting.

### **New Business**

*Soccer Field Safety:* Chairman Lewis noted that this issue was referred to the Recreation Board from the Long Range Planning Board. *(copy attached)* This issue was raised last year but died on the table. The Soccer Committee fought for a year-and-a-half to get a fence, period. Due to the temporary status of the fields, nothing permanent can be erected at this time. The fence is approximately 500-foot long and 3.5 feet tall.

Mr. Culler and others stated they had not observed any problems with children going into the street; soccer balls bouncing into the street is a bigger problem. Chairman Lewis noted he agreed with the last point on the list from the Long Range Planning Board – that signs need to be put up alerting parents to the

need to supervise their children. Mr. Culler asked about the process to get the speed limit lowered on the road, and Council Liaison Wyrick responded that the Town Council would have to initiate action through NCDOT.

**MOVED by Chris Culler to request to have the speed limit lowered on Alliance Church Road from Town Hall to the intersection with Neeley Road to 35MPH with signs saying “Children at Play” to be erected and that letters be sent to soccer coaches asking them to speak with their parents about safety in the fence area and have the coaches sign acknowledgement that they have done so. APPROVED, 7-0.**

*Town Council Action on Soccer:* Chairman Lewis reviewed the motion approved at the February 18, 2008 special meeting of the Town Council regarding the operations of the soccer program restricting access behind the lobby counter and use of the copier. He noted this has already been decided.

Mr. Culler expressed concern about children climbing all over and under chairs in the Council Chambers during the previous Saturday’s sign-ups. Vice Chairman Bragg noted that other than the lack of organization, things went OK. She and Interim Town Clerk Carmany discussed the need for a lock box in which to place money and the need for better accuracy in preparing the bank deposit slips. Mr. Brandt volunteered to assist with sign-ups on the next Saturday.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Staff Comment**

Acting Finance Officer Kim Payne reviewed the monthly finance report and the recommended changes to move leftover money from completed events into other categories. *(copy attached)*

**MOVED by Chairman Lewis to approve the recommended changes, seconded by Vice Chairman Bragg. APPROVED, 7-0.**

Mr. Payne reviewed a printout of every transaction that has taken place in the Private Money Account since it began. He explained that this account is separate from the General Fund and its use is restricted to soccer expenses only. Any carryover amounts from one fiscal year to the next must be re-budgeted. Council Liaison Wyrick stressed that the soccer program reports to the Recreation Board and that expenses for the soccer program must be brought to the Recreation Board for approval in order to have full accountability.

Mr. Payne also explained why he specified in his contract that he would not handle soccer program money and expenses under his duties. He did not feel this duty would be a cost-effective use of his hourly charges, nothing personal.

*Extension of Soccer Field Waivers: [For information only, no action needed by the Recreation Board]*  
Interim Clerk Carmany explained a memo from Greg Niles indicating that the temporary waivers granted for the soccer fields on February 14, 2006 had expired and needed to be extended. *(copy attached)* The Board of Adjustment will consider extending those temporary waivers for an additional two years at their meeting on March 11, 2008 at 5:30pm. Chairman Lewis indicated he would be present at that meeting to address the issue.

Interim Town Clerk Carmany alerted the Board to the need to submit proposed action items for the Town Council meeting agenda before the agenda preparation deadline.

**Board Comment**

*Ms. O'Brien* stated she hoped to see a massive volunteer list; that is 80% of our energy.

*Mr. Culler* stated he wanted to be sure event dates were being placed on the sign at the Fire Department and advertised in the newspapers. Interim Town Clerk Carmany stated that had been taken care of that very day. Mr. Culler welcomed Mr. Brandt to the Board.

*Vice Chairman Bragg* welcomed Mr. Brandt and thanked Council Liaison Wyrick for his support on the soccer issue.

*Ms. Cox* stated that Rodney Gann wished to address the Recreation Board about the Farmers Market at the next Recreation Board meeting. She asked if there were ways to let other town boards know the Recreation Board needs their help as volunteers as well. Chairman Lewis responded that letters could be sent to those board members. Mayor Hice and Councilman Wallace have helped a lot with various events.

*Mr. Brandt* stated he was looking forward to his service on the Recreation Board.

Chairman Lewis thanked Council Liaison Wyrick for his support to the kids and others and for standing behind the soccer program. He also thanked Interim Town Clerk Carmany for her help.

**Adjournment**

**MOVED by Chairman Lewis to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Cox. APPROVED, 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

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Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Chair