

Town of Pleasant Garden
Recreation Board
March 25, 2008
Kirkman Municipal Building
4920 Alliance Church Road

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Attendance:

Vice Chairman Cristina Bragg
Steven Brandt
Jan Cox
John Furlough (*arrived later in the meeting*)
Chairman Brent Lewis

Also in Attendance

Councilman Wallace, serving as the Council Liaison in Councilman Wyrick's absence
Sandy Carmany, Town Administrator/Clerk

Audience

4

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

Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany called the roll. Mr. Culler and Mrs. O'Brien were out of town and were given excused absences. Mr. Furlough was a few minutes late due to working at the soccer fields. Four persons were in attendance and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Mr. Lewis to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting, seconded by Mr. Brandt. **APPROVED, 4-0.** [*Mr. Furlough had not yet arrived.*]

Unfinished Business

Litter Sweep: Mr. Brandt noted that inmates had cleaned Hunt Road and there is some question whether or not the Town needs to hold Litter Sweep on April 19. Chairman Lewis that investigation be done to determine what is being covered and what is not. Mr. Brandt will follow up with Ms. O'Brien. Information about Litter Sweep should be placed on the Town's website.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Ms. Cox stated that the dinner could be held for no rental charge at Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church. She presented several menu options offered by area restaurants. (*copies attached*) Discussion followed about how the event could be handled in case of rain

and the need to secure a location now. Board members must submit their lists soon so that invitations can be sent out.

MOVED by Chairman Lewis to hold the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church, seconded by Ms. Cox. **APPROVED, 4-0.**

Mr. Furlough arrived at 7:17pm.

Farmers' Market: Ms. Cox stated that Rodney Gann wants the Vendors' Guidelines to be amended to require kitchen inspections for anyone offering prepared foods for sale at the Farmers' Market. Last year this would have affected only two vendors, one being the cake lady who was going to have this done anyway. The Market will operate on Saturday mornings beginning June 7 and end on October 4. *Rodney Gann of 4169 Dick Mills Road, McLeansville* said he has been a participant in the Farmers' Market for a long time and obtained a kitchen inspection through the FDA. He felt anyone selling prepared foods should undergo this simple inspection and a county water test that costs \$40. This inspection would give the town liability coverage on legal issues. He shared the phone numbers to schedule the inspection and water test. He also asked that vendors be allowed to sell eggs.

Soccer: Chairman Lewis said there are 630-640 kids registered for the spring season and practices began this week. They have never had all five fields in operation at once and fears there will be congestion issues with a possibility of 2,000 people on site when parents and family are figured in. More volunteers will be needed. There are 25 coaches, and there is need for one more for a 7/8-year-old team. There will be a mandatory coaches and referee clinic on April 5.

Vice Chairman Bragg said she had been asked by a political candidate to be allowed to operate a hot dog stand on opening day (April 12) for a political fundraiser. Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany noted that the Town Council does not have a policy for this, but whatever is decided, all candidates must be treated equally. Mr. Furlough expressed concern about the Board's role and the mission of the soccer program – providing recreation – and that he did not want to see the cloud of politics overshadowing the soccer program. Extensive discussion followed about the possibility of seven weeks of campaigning during the fall season, the point that free speech and campaigning cannot be prohibited but sales and fundraising activities could be regulated, how this had been handled in other locations, the potential financial impact on long-time vendors who do this for a living, the ability of candidates to solicit money elsewhere, how parents may not appreciate being approached, and the desire of the public to hear candidates' views and platforms. Chairman Lewis noted that the real issue is fundraising; our vendors in the past have also sponsored teams and provided T-shirts and trophies. He has no problem with a table and literature, but would prefer no sales. Vice Chairman Bragg stated that the candidate already had permission to set up on private property across the road from the soccer fields and that could create safety issues with people crossing the road. Chairman Lewis noted he had turned down other people who had approached him in the past about selling things at the soccer games.

MOVED by Mr. Brandt that political candidates be allowed to set up formal displays of their materials but are prohibited from sales of any type, seconded by Mr. Furlough. **APPROVED, 4-1** (*Yes – Brandt, Cox, Furlough, and Lewis; No – Bragg*)

Independence Day Celebration: Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany informed the Board she had mailed out RFPS for the fireworks display to five vendors on the county's approved list setting the date of the display as Friday, July 4 based on previous discussions of the Board and with Chairman Lewis' approval. One vendor had phoned to inform her that he would be charging a premium price of a minimum of

\$10,000 to do the display on July 4. Discussion took place about the merits of holding the activities on Friday or Saturday, including competition for attendees with Greensboro's Fun Fourth activities.

MOVED by Mr. Furlough to set the fireworks for Saturday, July 5 provided that Greensboro is not conducting theirs that night, seconded by Vice Chairman Bragg. **APPROVED, 5-0.** Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany will send out an amended RFP to the vendors.

Mr. Brandt provided two price quotes from Brenda's for the inflatables, one with operators and one without. (*copies attached*) Discussion took place on the merits of each option. Vice Chairman Bragg will check with Interactive for their price quotes and report back next month.

Other discussion focused on the need to identify an emcee, the proposed ballgames, potential conflicts with the car show, a volunteer to be Uncle Sam, possible bands and entertainment, and food vendors. Ms. Cox will select the items to be handed out. The Board agreed that the arts and crafts "One Stop Shop" should be continued.

New Business

Finance report and budget: Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany presented the finance report prepared by Kim Payne (*copy attached*). She also referred to the budget worksheet and requested that the Board fill it out in order to be considered during the 2008-09 budget preparation. Councilman Wallace suggested that this be addressed at the April meeting.

Public Comment

Mayor Anne Hice of 6459 Kearny Road distributed copies of Rodney Gann's inspection information. (*copies attached*) She informed the Board that the Town Council had renewed the Adopt-A-Highway contract for four years. Inmates do pick up trash from time to time and the road looks good for a while, and then gets bad again. Supplies are available at Town Hall. Chairman Lewis responded that information needed to be submitted to the *Pleasant Garden Post* as soon as possible.

Alan Marshall of 2318 Carlford Road noted that he is conducting a petition drive and wants to set up and collect signatures at the soccer games if there are no objections. If there are, he will not do it there.

Mark Wilcox of 2503 Ridgepoint Circle asked what percentage of the soccer players is not from Pleasant Garden and noted that those parents might not be interested in political candidates. He suggested morning radio show hosts Chris and Chris as emcees for the Independence Day festivities.

Staff Comment

Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany asked that the soccer program give her the number of children who were signed up for the optional accident insurance; the insurance policy must be renewed by April 1 and that number is needed as part of the application. She reported that the dedicated phone line for the soccer office should be installed shortly.

Board Comment

Ms. Cox asked Board members to submit their overdue volunteer lists to her so that she could eliminate duplicates and get the invitations prepared and mailed. The invitations for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner should go out in the next two weeks.

Councilman Wallace thanked the Recreation Board for doing a good job.

Mr. Brandt congratulated Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany on her appointment.

Chairman Lewis thanked Councilman Wallace for acting as the Town Council liaison this evening and asked all Board members to email their volunteer lists to Ms. Cox.

Adjournment

MOVED by Chairman Lewis to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brandt. APPROVED, 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Clerk

Date

Chair