

Town of Pleasant Garden
Recreation Board
January 22, 2008
Kirkman Municipal Building

Next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2007

Minutes
Regular Meeting

The Recreation Board for the Town of Pleasant Garden met at 7:00PM on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at the Kirkman Municipal Building.

In attendance

Cristina Bragg
Jan Cox
Chris Culler
John Furlough
Brent Lewis
Wendy O'Brien

Also in attendance

Councilmember Bob Wyrick / Council Liaison
Darla Robenolt / Asst. Town Clerk (Part-time)
Sandy Carmany /Interim Town Clerk

Audience

One -- Mayor Anne Hice (arrived at 7:55PM)

Councilmember Bob Wyrick called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
All members were in attendance and a quorum was present.
Brent Lewis gave the invocation.
Chris Culler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Direction from Council for 2008

Councilmember Wyrick stated the Town Council's directions to the Board for the coming year: do a good job, be diligent, be prepared for events, and seek other people well in advance as volunteers. He stated that there is one vacancy on this board. Interim Town Clerk Sandy Carmany and Assistant Town Clerk Darla Robenolt informed Mr. Wyrick and the Board that the town has received an interest form from someone interested in serving. As soon as the criminal history check can be completed, his name will be submitted to the Town Council for appointment at their February 12 meeting.

Oaths of Office

Councilmember Wyrick administered the Oaths of Office to all members of the Board. Each person signed their Oath, and Mrs. Carmany collected the forms for filing.

Election of Chairman

Councilmember Wyrick opened the floor for nominations for the position of chairman. Jan Cox nominated Brent Lewis, Mr. Culler seconded the nomination. . Board members voted **6-0** to elect Mr. Lewis.

Election of Vice Chairman

Councilmember Wyrick opened the floor for nominations for the position of vice chairman. Cristina Bragg nominated Chris Culler. Brent Lewis nominated John Furlough. Chris Culler nominated Cristina Bragg. Mr. Furlough declined the nomination, noting that he was too busy to fulfill the duties of that office. Councilmember Wyrick conducted the vote – **2 votes for Mr. Culler, 4 votes for Ms. Bragg**. Ms. Bragg was elected as vice chairman.

Chairman Lewis assumed control of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the November 27, 2007 meeting were presented for review and comment. Chairman Lewis asked if there were any changes. With no changes to be made Chairman Lewis **MOVED** to approve the November 27, 2007 minutes. Vice Chairman Bragg seconded the motion. **APPROVED, 6-0**.

Unfinished Business/New Business

Chairman Lewis stated that he was combining his 2007 Year-in-Review report with new business by reviewing each event that the Recreation Board oversees and talking about things that went well and things that needed to be improved. He thanked Wendy O'Brien and John Furlough for volunteering their time last year and for joining the Recreation Board.

Spring Soccer: On-site sign-up for Spring Soccer will be held on Saturdays March 1, 8, and 15 from 9:00am-2:00pm. At least two board members should be present to collect applications and money, with March 15 anticipated to be the busiest day. He and Vice Chairman Bragg will be bonded to handle money. Post cards have been mailed to names on the data base; there were 859 children on the list. The playing season will run from April 12 through June 7 – eight Saturdays, taking off Memorial Day weekend Mayor Hice is allowing the soccer program to use one of the town's laptops that will be a great help to the program. At least three dates must be set for the soccer draft meetings during the week of March 17. Interest has been expressed in allowing 17-year-olds to play.

The Dynamo training camp will be held June 16-20 on the municipal soccer fields.

Mr. Culler reported that grass seed and fertilizer had been applied to the fields in November and another round may be done in February. Goals will be set up in late March. The Idol Field is not in good shape due to issues with gravel continually coming to the surface; it could be used as a practice field.

Farmers' Market: Jan Cox agreed to chair this event again this year; Ms. O'Brien will assist. The Farmers' Market will operate from June 7-October 4, 2008 from 6:30am-noon. Only produce can be sold before 7:30am after which any food item may be sold. Last year's growing season was poor and some vendors purchased produce for resale at the market. Now that electricity is available, some vendors may be able to use refrigeration and expand their offerings. Ms. Cox reported that Rodney Gann wishes to be on the agenda and address the Board at a future meeting to express his concern about items for sale from kitchens which have not been inspected. Vendors can bring their own tables

and set up if all the others are occupied. Since the first day of Farmers' Market overlaps with the last day of the spring soccer season, efforts will be made to make people attending the games aware of the market and encourage them to visit it.

Independence Day: Chairman Lewis and Vice Chairman Bragg will take responsibility for this event. It was noted that July 4 will fall on a Friday this year, presenting the possibility of two days of activities. Much discussion took place about coordinating with the Community Center to offer children's All-Star baseball, softball, and/or soccer games along with the usual celebrations and fireworks. Turnout might be better when relatives come to watch their family play and then stick around for other activities. All activities could be included in one day with an earlier starting time. Decisions on fireworks and the children's bouncy activity must be made soon to reserve them. Ms. O'Brien asked if booking a carnival in for the day would be feasible; someone will check on prices and availability of this option.

Chairman Lewis reported he had received a call from the Community Center asking if the Town had any use for the old lights that are being taken down. There was discussion about the safety of the lights and if they are energy-efficient. Chairman Lewis will bring this up at the next meeting. Councilmember Wyrick will also check with the Community Center on this issue.

Pet Day: Ms. Cox will chair Pet Day; Ms. O'Brien will assist her. Pet Day will be held on October 11, 2008, the Saturday after the Farmers' Market closes. Inoculations will be available that day.

Veterans Day: The whole Board will assist with this event. Since November 11 falls on a Town Council meeting day, the celebration will be held on Sunday, November 9. Efforts will be made to identify and include veterans who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq this time.

Firemen's Appreciation Dinner: This event will be held on September 11 if that date is acceptable to Fire Chief Cole; Chairman Lewis will check with him. Ms. Cox and Ms. O'Brien will coordinate the activities.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Discussion took place about the purpose, who should be included, and timing of this event. It was originally council-driven to thank people who served on the Town's boards and gradually expanded to include all volunteers. It was agreed this event should be separate from the soccer appreciation activities. Chairman Lewis suggested that the dinner be held in May utilizing the picnic shelter, inviting all volunteers who had assisted in the previous year. This issue will be discussed further at a future Board meeting.

Garden Gathering: Assistant Town Clerk Robenolt asked about the status of the Garden Gathering. It was cancelled last year, but some people have expressed interest in reviving it. It has been difficult to get the needed volunteers and sponsorships to put it on. Chairman Lewis suggested that unless the original group who sponsored it was willing to pursue it, the Board already has plenty of activities planned. Mr. Furlough noted that the "door is open" but the Town should not take ownership of this event.

Christmas Parade: Mr. Culler and Mr. Furlough will chair this event scheduled for the first Saturday of the month, December 6. They need all the planning materials from last year to assist them and will also need walkies, golf carts, and lots of volunteers. Councilmember Wyrick said he would offer some suggestions later.

Fall Soccer: Chairman Lewis stated that sign-ups for fall soccer would be held in August and play should begin by Labor Day, tentatively August 30. Mr. Culler asked why sign-ups were not done on the last day of spring soccer play. Vice Chairman Bragg responded that this has been tried in the past, but it is too early and the children don't know what they want to do at that time.

It was suggested that the Town needs a drop box for soccer applications.

Public Comment

Mayor Hice asked if sheriff's deputies and EMTs will be included in the Firemen's Appreciation Dinner. Chairman Lewis responded yes.

Mayor Hice noted that the Town has two walkies, but they are very old and barely work.

Mayor Hice passed out postcards with information on the "*Get Healthy Guilford Challenge*." This program will be promoted countywide. There are plenty of postcards for anyone wanting more of them.

Staff Comment

Interim Town Clerk Sandy Carmany explained the financial report prepared by Mr. Kim Payne and noted that these reports will be prepared for every meeting. The figures in red denote income.

Assistant Town Clerk Robenolt stated that she appreciated the Recreation Board as a team that gets things done. Council Liaison Patterson thanked everyone on the Recreation Board for their efforts and all the work they had done over the past year planning and executing many wonderful town events.

Councilmember Wyrick commended the Board on a good meeting and the progress it made. He presented information on the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Litter Sweep. A previous Board adopted Pleasant Garden Road from the church up to Ritters Lake Road as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program, intending for it to be a community-wide program. However, volunteers have dwindled and little has been done with it the past couple of years. The Annual Spring Roadside Cleanup is scheduled for April 19-May 3. This Board needs to decide whether to continue with the project or withdraw from it. Mayor Hice noted that there are gloves, vests, and orange plastic bags in Town Hall to be used for this project; NCDOT picks the filled bags up off the side of the road. Ms. O'Brien asked if school children could participate in the event; the response was that there is an age limit of 13-years-old due to safety concerns. Mayor Hice said that this issue would be placed on the Town Council's February meeting agenda for discussion.

Board Comment

Ms. O'Brien asked who keeps the master volunteer list. The response was that no one is doing that at the moment, but it does need to be compiled and maintained.

Vice Chairman Bragg thanked Assistant Town Clerk Robenolt for attending so many of the Town's special events and being so helpful. She also thanked Mayor Hice, Councilmember Wyrick and Interim Town Clerk Carmany.

Mr. Culler stated he was looking forward to a good year and thanked Assistant Town Clerk Robenolt for her service.

Ms. Cox thanked Interim Town Clerk Carmany, said farewell to Assistant Town Clerk Robenolt, and welcomed Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Furlough.

Chairman Lewis suggested a group hug after the meeting to say farewell to Assistant Town Clerk Robenolt and welcomed Interim Town Clerk Carmany.

Adjournment

Ms. Cox **MOVED** to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Lewis; the motion was **APPROVED 6-0** and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Clerk

Date

Chair