

TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION



DIVISION MANAGER

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RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES 03 NOVEMBER 2008

Commission Members Present: Clyde Takala – Chairman, Joe O’Brien – Vice Chairman,
Rene King, Dan Proto

Commission Members Absent: Kathy Pina, Andy Gauthier and Kevin Turner

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m., roll call was taken. Joe O’Brien made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 6, 2008 meeting, seconded by Rene King, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

David LaCouture, Marketing Manager for HYCC, was introduced as Recreation’s most recent hire. David commented that he is looking forward to working at the new facility. His plans include summer hockey camps; building up the figure skating and hockey programs. As the HYCC is slated to open in July, 2009 David said his focus right now is for the summer months. David is looking to sign on long standing groups. He wants to help build groups build their programs as they help up build our facility.

Lynne Poyant commented that she has had conversations with Patty Lloyd (VP of Sales for Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Sports Marketing Committee) who has already had a meeting with David LaCouture and is pleased to be working with him. Lynne also spoke with Deb Converse of the Hyannis Chamber of Commerce who spoke very highly of David.

The Recreation Commission welcomed David and thanked him for attending the meeting.

New Business: None

Old Business: Smoking Ban recommendations:

Al Baker: The smoking ban cannot hurt. It will be a win/win situation. The Town will not have litter or smoke around, and if signs were placed properly they would police themselves. Al offered his assistance if needed.

Beth Herrick: Is in strong support of a smoking ban. She understands that no law or regulation is 100% enforceable. The primary goal is for it to be a deterrent. If we can minimize smoking, our beaches would be a lot cleaner. It would help to keep the environment healthy. Beth suggested that along with signage, pamphlets or notices could be handed out with beach stickers describing the new regulation. Beth thanked the Commission for considering the ban.

Bernadette Tremer: Seconded Beth Herrick's statements. She feels smoking is a bad influence for children and it affects people with allergies. Elderly people who come to the beach have a hard time moving if they have a problem with the smoke.

August Tremer: Feels the same way as his wife. It is just not pleasant to sit at the beach and have smoke come at you.

Ed Jay: It has always bothered him to see cigarette butts on the beach. It is troublesome to go to the beach and have someone around you smoking. He is strongly in favor of the ban on smoking.

Carolyn Russert: Does a number of smoking cessation classes at the hospital. She agrees with everything that Beth Herrick said. She would also like to say that smokers feel persecuted enough as it is. Her suggestion is if a ban were to be enforced, you must be careful. The fact that filters are not biodegradable is a big thing environmentally. You do not want to alienate a bunch of people. She does agree with the ban – but you need to find a way without policing everybody.

Chris Kuhn: Does not have as much a problem with an occasional whiff of smoke, as he has with the litter. In about ten minutes time today at Craigville Beach, he picked up butts that filled a bottle half-way (the bottle was presented to the Commission). He would be in favor of the ban.

Brian Pickering: Spends a lot of time at Sandy Neck in his camper. He would like to enjoy his time at the beach as a smoker. He agrees that the litter is not a good thing and he spends time on his weekends picking up butts on the beach. He does not think the ban is a good thing. He suggested a sign asking everyone to keep the beach clean.

Malcolm Jacobsen: Feels signage is the biggest problem. If the money is going to be spent, spend it on putting signs up – Please do not leave butts on the beach. Banning smoking is irking him. More government – more big brother. Power of more enforcement. Spend the money and get more recycle receptacles. There are really no figures that show second-hand smoke effects. The sun is a whole lot worse for skin cancer than a little bit of second-hand smoke. The majority of the people that go to the beach are not even here right now. Working folks don't go to the beach. This motion needs to come up at a time when the folks that actually go to the beach are here. To deal with the litter, have the lifeguards write them a ticket for littering.

Kathleen Bent: Primary reason for coming is to speak in favor of the smoking ban. In Rhode Island, the beaches were still very populated in the Newport area where a smoking ban is in effect. Her primary reason for the ban is her toddler has severe respiratory condition and she has a significant problem when she is around not only cigarette smoke, but fireplaces, bonfires. Her son has asthma and children with asthma suffer terribly from smoke. It would be a great idea for Barnstable.

Larry Brown: Agrees that the litter is a problem. He feels you need to look at all things before the ban is put into effect.

Dr. Tim Herrick: Is in support of the ban. Second-hand smoke is a potential health problem. It does not take much to people with chronic respiratory problems to suffer adverse affects – as a physician he sees that in his practice. He agrees with Carol not to target smokers. This could be enacted by having an area where receptacles are placed in a parking lot where people could smoke and dispose of the butts.

Clyde Takala explained that the Commission does not make final decision. The Commission makes a recommendation to the Town Manager, John Klimm. If it is decided for the Town to move forward with a smoking ban, a couple of items listed below must be addressed that have not been spoken of tonight or at the public meeting on October 2, 2008.

- 1) What beaches would fall under this ban? There are currently 14 beaches.
- 2) What time frame – 365 days? Is the time restriction for dogs matched (May 15th through September 15th)?
- 3) Will the ban affect the parking lot?

This input is needed from the public for the Commission to make their decision. The Recreation Commission will discuss this issue further this evening and make a recommendation to the Town Manager.

Rene King asked those that smoke, if an area was designated and with our common goal being to reduce the litter, would that be a good compromise? Those in favor of the ban and those opposed agreed to this compromise.

David Curley explained that Sandy Neck is not under the control of the Recreation Division. It is under the control of Sandy Neck. It all falls under the Town Manager. The Sandy Neck board will be discussing a smoking ban up at one of the future Sandy Neck Governing board meetings.

From the discussion this evening, **Clyde Takala** is hearing that if a proposal for a smoking ban moves forward, all beaches will have a designated smoking area with the proper trash cans, signage, etc. so that litter is eliminated.

Rene King thanked everyone for their comments. She said everyone agrees on the litter issue.

Bob Smith: a member of the Critical Planning Committee in Eastham is considering a smoking ban. The answer to enforcement is to log onto Google and put in “smokeless beaches” and you will see a list of communities that have embarked on this same mission. This site provides information on enforcement, signage, and receptacles. He agrees that a designated area should be provided – it might take all of two parking spaces. It will certainly take a lot of butt cans to make it work. He made mention of the butts that are thrown in the sand. They eventually make their way into the water and become food for turtles, birds and for fish. They contain the worst carcinogenics in a cigarette because of they filter through that.

Dr. David Lovett: An oncologist at Cape Cod Hospital stated that second-hand smoke definitely contain carcinogens. Smoking should be banned from all public beaches.

Clyde Takala reported to the public that if the proposal is recommended to the Town Manager, it will be published in the Cape Cod Times and in the Barnstable Patriot as well as posted to Recreation’s website. He will make sure it is public knowledge. **Clyde Takala** thanked the public for coming and stated that it’s their input that is very valuable.

Bill Sykes, Best Buddies Program, requested approval from the Commission for the 10th Annual Best Buddies Hyannisport Challenge to be held on May 30th. He is asking for the same set-up as last year at the Craigville Beach area and using Ocean Park for the festivities after the Challenge. The Challenge will be rerouted this year – they will come all the way down the Service Road to Shoot Flying Hill Road. Using Great Marsh Road last year was too dangerous to the riders. This new route will be safer. They are also holding the Carl Lewis 3K Walk and a 5-K Run Challenge to take place in the morning which will kick off at 9:00 a.m. **David Curley** stated that parking may be an issue this year because the Program is being held a week after the beaches officially open for the summer. **Bill Sykes** said that shuttles from the high school can be used if

parking is a problem. For the safety of the riders, **Rene King** asked for more signs indicating "Riders in Road".

Clyde Takala made a motion for the Recreation Commission to support Best Buddies on May 30, 2009. Motion was seconded by **Joe O'Brien**. The Board vote unanimously in favor of the Best Buddies Program.

Old Business: The Campground Feasibility Funding will be moved to the December 2008 meeting.

Smoking Ban Recommendation: Joe O'Brien is glad to hear both sides of the story. He feels that sometimes government gets too involved. **Joe** feels we need a ban on the beach area and a designated smoke area should be found. **Dan Proto** said the designated area cannot be placed near doors, or bathrooms or the snack bar. It needs to be 30 feet away from a doorway. **Joe O'Brien** feels it needs to take place at all beaches and not just some.

Rene King suggested a program that could bring the arts as a way of communicating litter free, smoke free beautiful beaches. **Lynne Poyant** suggested an art project could incorporate the design of the receptacles.

Joe O'Brien made a motion to enact a public smoking ban at all beaches subject to the Town of Barnstable. The ban will be in effect at all beaches under Recreation's control from May 15th to September 15th to be enforced by the aquatic staff. All beaches will have a designated smoking area with a sign and receptacles provided. **Dan Proto** seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to forward the recommendation to the Town Manager.

If the ban is put into effect, notices regarding the ban will be mailed out with all parking permits.

Clyde Takala received only two replies regarding his request for information for the Handbook. (See attached.)

Director's Report: David Curley presented his Director's Report (see attached). **David** asked that an architect from the VHB Firm and Lindsay Counsell be placed on December's Agenda to discuss the CPA funding.

David was in touch with the Barnstable A.D. regarding the parking issue. He stated that more lighting is being installed in the back lot for parking. And Steve Francis considered providing a shuttle from the High School to the Rink.

David passed out the User Fee Analysis and FY09-FY10 Fee Recommendations (see attached) for the Board's review. **David** asked the Commission for their approval in bringing the fee increases in Aquatics and Rink forward to the Town Manager. **Joe O'Brien** made a motion to move the Fee Increases recommendation to the Town Manager. **Rene King** seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in support.

Lynne Poyant suggested forming a sub-committee to consist of Recreation Staff, Commission member(s) and the Public to plan an **End of Season** rink event. This will be discussed further at the December meeting.

Joe O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by **Dan Proto**. All in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.