

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006 7:00 P.M. @ TOWN HALL

The Recreation Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Hester at 7:00 p.m. Ray Von Cook said the invocation.

Present were committee members:

- Chairperson Wayne Hester
- Ab Martin
- Ray Von Cook
- O'mar Smith
- Arlyn Wilson
- Jeff Larrimore

and Lynn McKinnie. Absent was Howard Webster

Discussion centered around the maintenance facility visit of January 20th and proposed changes to the building that could possibly be made. Suggestions included lowering the ceiling to make a top floor. This floor could be converted into storage areas as well as offices. The bottom floor would be used for meeting places and recreational services. There are four heaters which could be adjusted to two on the top floor and two on the bottom floor. A kitchen could be added to one of the bays. In the outside area, a walking nature trail could zig-zag around the property. A gazebo would be a nice addition, also. Other activities to consider are a skating "thing", basketball facilities, horse-shoe pit, and a volleyball court. The suggestion was made to get the word out to the citizens to see what residents want in a park facility. Negative aspects of using the maintenance area for a park facility would be that it's out of the way and the lack of parking area. However, it was reasoned that there should be plenty of parking on both sides of the lot as well as in front of the building. Across the street in Heath's lot could probably be accessed as well, as most activities would occur during the evening so the businesses there would be closed.

Jeff Larrimore said he had spoken with the Recreation Director at Kernersville, Mr. Pryor, about the 4th of July Park and various recreation issues. Wayne Hester said he had tried to contact without success Jenny Fentriss(?) and Tim Grant.

Money is an issue because the \$100,000 bequest would not go far in fulfilling the recreational "wish-list". The committee needs to look very seriously into grant monies. We need to get as much money as we can before we try to get matching grants. Suggested: adding the title "Senior" to the building could bring in more grant money.

Four recreation/community center groups in Walkertown holding recreation-use funds were discussed. Each group has money that could be contributed to the recreation fund, if the principal leaders would agree to the donation.

1. Civic Club
2. Friends of the Park
3. Community Center Group
4. Arts Council

Hotel Occupancy funds could contribute about \$150,000, depending on the amount in the fund (half the total amount can be used for recreation; and half can be used for economic development).

More discussion is needed to reach a conclusion on what is needed, how much is needed, and how everything will be paid for.

Things to find out:

- Warehouse Building information (acreage & building plan).
- Who owns woods across street from maintenance facility and behind Heath's strip mall?
- Where is old Community Center survey?
- Are "old" dishes still in warehouse?
- Does SIDA allotment apply to maintenance facility area?

Other:

- Ab Martin will try to talk to Civic Club.
- Wait on talking with Friends of Park.
- Wayne Hester, as a town official, may want to consider talking to the four groups mentioned earlier. Ab has told members of each of the four groups that a plan is being worked on.
- Wayne will also try to contact Jenny and Tim.
- Wayne will go look at the Kernersville Park and talk with Mr. Pryor.

The next Recreation Advisory Committee meeting has not been decided on. Lynn will contact each member when a new meeting is set up.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn McKinnie
Town Clerk
Town of Walkertown