

## HAMPDEN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes: April 19, 2008

Approved June 16, 2008

Members Present: Doug Boyd, Jamie Collins and Carol Fitzgerald

Guests: Park and Rec Representatives:

Chris MacDonald, Larry Forrest, Huck House, Bob White, Deb House

Previous Minutes: N/A

Carol began the meeting with an overview of Advisory's budget process. Explained that when reviewing Park and Rec requests, questions arose based on conflicting information heard at the Public Hearing. Advisory needs to know what the request is – particularly as it relates to operating costs of Spray Park.

Park and Rec needs \$7,000.00 for operations - \$1,800.00 to open, \$2,200.00 to close, additional money for electricity, chemicals, etc.

Some discussion took place regarding the goal of fundraising efforts, the status toward that goal and what has been turned over from the Friends of Memorial Park to the Park and Rec Department. Deb indicated that she has received a \$500.00 check and that there is a balance of approximately \$1,200.00 in a bank account. That needs to be turned over as well. There has been some challenge with the account because of the manner in which it was set up. Tracy Sicbaldi and the Selectmen are aware of this and working on it.

Park and Rec members also indicated that Capital expenses were still requested. They are unaware of the fence being donated. They believe the shed at TWB needs to be replaced.

Park and Rec members expressed their strong desire for full funding of their requests. They have not been restored to the level of other departments since severe cuts a couple of years ago. They ask that the town invest in its children by supporting their budget.

Advisory Committee Representatives expressed their desire to meet now to understand the issues, rather than wait until Town Meeting to have discussion. Advisory wants to be sensitive to the concerns of town citizens to such a sharp increase in expenses, but also realizes that the town committed to the Spray Park Project already, but wasn't planning to fund the additional expenses so soon.

Next Meeting: April 28, 2008

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion Seconded:

Adjournment:

Respectfully Submitted: Roberta M. Addison, Clerk

