



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION

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RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES 11 MAY 2009

Commission Members Present: Clyde Takala – Chairman, Joe O’Brien – Vice Chairman, Rene King, Andy Gauthier, Kathy Pina, and Kevin Turner

Commission Members Absent: Dan Proto

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m., roll call was taken. Kevin Turner made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 6th, 2009 meeting, seconded by Andy Gauthier, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

New Business: Kevin Turner said the Harwich Recreation Commission approached him about taking a stand on the proposed wind farm and potential lost revenue at the Town beaches. Kevin said he would follow up with Harwich and Dennis about this issue and discuss it at the June meeting.

Old Business: Regarding Ridgewood Park, **Kevin Turner** made a motion to support the Ridgewood Park renovations, seconded by **Rene King**, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously.

Naming Rights of Rink 2, HYCC: Kevin Turner said that he did some research on the past naming opportunities and he was not asked to vote on any naming rights before so he is not sure why he is voting on one tonight. He asked what role the Recreation Commission is playing in this vote. **Clyde Takala** commented that the Recreation Commission never made any decisions on naming rights and he is not sure of the legal ramifications, if there are any, regarding the issue at hand. **Dave Chase**, president of HYCC foundation, said after Patrick Butler’s untimely death, he wanted to name the whole facility after him because it was very significant to memorialize him. Dave Chase said he talked to the Town Manager, John Klimm, and they met in February. He asked John Klimm what “John” would like to do. Dave Chase said John Klimm suggested he look at Rink 2 for naming it after Patrick Butler. He also said Town Councilor Ann Canedy suggested a recommendation come from the Recreation Commission to the Town Manager, regarding the naming of Rink 2; the Town Manager has the authority to name Rink 2. Dave Chase said that he talked to the Town Manager and he thought it was a great idea if a recommendation came from the Recreation Commission regarding this issue. **Joe O’Brien** asked the Town Attorney, David Houghton, his legal advice. **David Houghton** advised the Recreation Commission to take the

proposal from Dave Chase under advisement and that the Recreation Commission should not decide tonight on the naming rights of Rink 2. **Kevin** said that after the last minutes that the Foundation was raising money, and if the funds are there the Foundation does not need approval from the Recreation Commission. **Rene King** asked about another element, the scholarship that was mentioned with this. Is it an annual process to receive the scholarship and will the Recreation Commission be involved? She said she was unsure of the Recreation Commission's involvement. **Kevin Turner** asked why the HYCC Foundation came before the Recreation Commission for this particular naming right. He said the Administrative Code is spelled out. **Town Attorney David Houghton** again advised the Recreation Commission that a decision should not be made tonight. **Andy Gauthier** said that if a set of rules have been established, set in place, being followed and on going, then why is the Recreation Commission involved.

Dave Chase gave a little history of how the HYCC came together. In 2000/01 Barnstable Youth Hockey got together with Gary Blazis and discussed raising money for a new rink. It was a \$13 million dollar project at the time. They were advised to raise \$4 million and the Foundation raised \$6 million dollars. The Foundation knew that the HYCC would be owned by the Town. In the quiet phase, Patrick Butler raised \$1 million dollars, thanks to the Department of Education and Senator Edward Kennedy. Then in 2004 the largest single gift of \$3.5 million dollars came from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts signed by Governor Mit Romney. At the end of 2004 the Foundation turned over the \$6 million dollars to the Town and at that point the project turned into something much larger. The HYCC Foundation created negotiations for naming opportunities which was part of the Capital Campaign. **Dave Chase** continued that this initiative, naming Rink 2 after Patrick Butler, the Foundation does not have the authority to place Patrick Butler's name on Rink 2. The Recreation Commission should make a recommendation to the Town Manager on naming Rink 2 after Patrick Butler. He said the Town owes it to Patrick Butler to do so. Also, he said that nobody objects to the naming of Rink 2, they simply need to come up with an approach. Dave Chase said he was stepping down at the end of the year, and unfortunately Caroline Fries passed away and the HYCC Foundation has already raised some money for an endowment in her name. He said that the Foundation does not have cash upfront like the Town wants, but the Foundation will raise money, and asked what is the price. He asked the Recreation Commission to make a recommendation to the Town Manager, the Commission has no power to direct him, and he wants the Commission to recognize the merit of the proposal.

Tony Shepley, contributor to HYCC from 2000 to present, said the Foundation was handed a difficult task. They were raising money against a moving target. He said that the money is easy. \$200,000 will be raised. Name the rink after Patrick Butler for the youth of the Town because there are no hero's left. Patrick Butler is the one who pursued the mission and pulled off the new HYCC. He said the Recreation Commission has to give honor to Patrick Butler.

Skip Sisson said he worked with Patrick Butler, who got things done. He needs to be recognized, Patrick deserves it even without any money raised. He feels it will be a real shame if it doesn't go through.

Larry Thayer said that writing the check is easy. He said it is the people in the front lines who should get the honor. He said that Patrick Butler wasn't just for the youth, but he was for the whole community. He feels it would be a mistake not to honor Patrick Butler.

Maggie Van Skyver met Patrick skating. He was a hired gun to raise money for the HYCC and he did so much for the Town and Community that was unknown. She understands that there is a short fall in funding but she would take that burden on seven days a week because of his commitment to the people.

Peter Myer said he is best friends with Patrick Butler who has done a lot for HYCC. He doesn't feel that there are any legal problems for making a recommendation to the Town Manager. Also, Patrick was a catalyst; kids and parents will have something to aspire to. Looking at the sign on the wall, "One child, one family, one neighborhood at a time," that is Patrick. Put the recommendation forth.

Leo Fein said that Patrick was a strategist. Dave Chase and Patrick said the HYCC was a marathon. They drove all the members on the Foundation. Rink 2 deserves Patrick's name and it is owed to Patrick Butler.

David Lawler said he was a friend and colleague of Patrick. Patrick's name is deserving of praise. Naming Rink 2 after Patrick is a win-win situation.

Dave Chase said the HYCC is there because they took action. He said Patrick used to say "Now, now, now Mr. Chase, we can work this out." Make the recommendation to the Town Manager.

Gary Blazis said the rink or the Youth Center wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Patrick Butler. Do the moral thing and what is right and make the recommendation to the Town Manager and get it passed; it is an easy decision to make. With Rink 2 named after Patrick, the Town will know the value of what Patrick did for this Town. The whole community will be using the complex and that is because of Patrick Butler. It is the right thing to do; the building would not be there without him.

Rob Walters said that he didn't know Patrick, but his actions are infectious and that is why he is now involved. Patrick is a hero.

Kevin Turner said to David Chase that the Recreation Commission has no financial responsibilities for naming rights, and they weren't involved in any of them. He said that Caroline Fries was his and Andy Gauthier's babysitter and when they tried to push something through for Caroline, they were told no. **Dave Chase** said that the Town Manager told him it was a good idea and that a recommendation should come from the Recreation Commission. **Kevin** asked if funds were established for the Conference Room for example and if a price was set for that and if it was paid up front. **Dave Chase** said it was good faith for some naming rights. **Kevin** asked if the Foundation came up with the prices for the naming rights and if Dave Chase was looking to waive the rights of the Foundation in order to name Rink 2 after Patrick Butler. **Dave Chase** said absolutely and that he will work with the Town Manager; he said it was a very intense process.

Paul Everson said that the Recreation Commission is an advisory board to the Town Manager and the Commission needs to make a recommendation; it is quite clear the right thing to do.

Rene King thanked everyone for coming and Patrick Butler is more than just a name, it is something the youth need to see and aspire to. She said that she is here because of a math teacher, William Covell, who taught her to take a personal responsibility to give back to the community. She said Patrick Butler is more than a name; it is what his name stands for. **Rene** asked if that commitment is equally there for us. **Dave Chase** said that the Foundation raised more money than they said it would. He said he made a personal commitment to raise money for Caroline Fries; \$500,000 within five years and \$1,000,000 in ten years and he will establish a scholarship that will continue to fundraise. He promises a 1000% commitment to do so. **Gary Blazis** said that the Recreation Commission could use the word "support" for the naming if they are not comfortable with the word "recommendation." **Tony Shepley** said that Rene is on to something. Patrick Butler's name evokes reaction and it tells a story. **Joe O'Brien** said that the Recreation Commission has never been involved in the naming process and after he and Dave Chase talked he

brought it up to the Recreation Commission and there was a possibility it wasn't in the Commission's legal rights to make a recommendation about the naming of Rink 2. Joe continued to say that he was for naming Rink 2 for Patrick Butler; he thinks it is a good idea. He said that it is a tough economy and he has to look at the monetary value of naming rights. Looking at it from a business background, no others have come forward for Rink 2. He believes that the HYCC are reputable people to bring money back. If they turn down the Foundation, in six months from now there still may be no money and no proposal. From a moral and business standpoint it makes sense to make a recommendation to the Town Manager. **Joe O'Brien** made a motion to support the naming of the second rink after Patrick Butler, seconded by **Kevin Turner** with an amendment not to put a dollar amount on it. **Kathy Pina** said that there were mixed messages, she was uneasy about the vote and not clear on where the Town Manager was coming from so she was abstaining from voting. **Joe O'Brien** voted in favor of the naming. He said that a recommendation is just that, a recommendation and the Town Manager can approve it or not approve it. **Andy Gauthier** said that he is not sure why the Town Manager came to them for a recommendation, he has no problem with the recommendation, but he is not sure why he is in the situation to make a recommendation. The Commission voted and the results were Joe O'Brien, Rene King, Kevin Turner, and Andy Gauthier in favor of; Kathy Pina abstained, Clyde Takala did not vote, the motion was passed to support the naming of Rink 2 as the Patrick M. Butler Rink.

Clyde Takala informed the Commission about an email sent from Rob Anderson for an ATV park at Hathaway's Pond. Rob would like to come before the Commission with a full presentation. Clyde said a letter would be sent to the Conservation Commission regarding this request and then continue from there. **Kathy** suggested that Rob go before Barnstable and Ann Canedy with his plans. He will be put on June's agenda. Best Buddies event is May 30th and Sam will send a reminder email as to what time the event is. A discussion took place regarding the motion that was passed regarding the naming rights of Rink 2. **Kevin** asked Clyde to write a letter to John Klimm to inform him that the recommendation made to support the naming of Rink 2 was information taken at face value and the Commission feels they may have been misinformed. Clyde said he would draft a letter with Sam's help. It will be sent to Town Manager

Public Comment: None

Director's Report: See Attached. **Rene** asked about the green pieces for the HYCC. **David Curley** said that the Town is taking steps to be green by next year. Again, **Rene** suggested the Commission go to IFAW on Willow Street so to replicate the tours at HYCC. **Joe O'Brien** asked about the Marketing Position. **David** said that it was posted yesterday and they are moving forward with that. **Kathy** asked about Lombard Field and if it is named after the family or the housing complex. **David** said that he would look into that. **Kevin** asked why we made a special meeting and did not just wait to meet at the scheduled June meeting. **Joe** said that items including the Ridgewood Park decision could not wait until June. **Kevin** wanted to know if that was the procedure for the future. **Joe** said that issues need to be brought up to the chair and they will vote on it.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 1st, 2009 and the meeting location is to be announced. **Kathy Pina** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Kevin Turner**; the motion was passed at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Samantha Garfield, Principal Division Assistant, Recreation Division