

**ESSEX PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2012**

(Please note these minutes have yet to be approved)

Chairman Michael Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Michael Holmes, James Rawn, Anthony Mosa, Doug Senn
Robert Russo, Thomas Clerkin

Also Present: Steve Luster, John Bauman, Coral Rawn, Glen Holmes, Park & Recreation
Director Rick Audet & Recreation Programs Coordinator Mary Ellen Barnes

Motion was made by James Rawn to move that the Park and Recreation Commission approve in principle an alternative site for the basketball center which is to be presented now and which the Commissioners fully understand would be on track to begin construction the week of April 9, 2012 and in accordance with the terms of the EBC Town Account under the trusteeship of Roberts Dixon. He will present this alternative site to a Town Meeting for approval as soon as practical utilizing the funds already collected and committed. Tony Mosa seconded the motion and a of the motion discussion followed.

Jim Rawn presented site plans, financial information and the primary elements necessary to move the location of the Basketball Court to Hubbard Park at the site of the existing Volleyball Court. Tony Mosa stated that after the last Park and Recreation meeting the EBC Sub-Committee met to discuss options related to the project up to and including an alternative site for the EBC Project.

Doug Senn reaffirmed the need of a Basketball Court and asking Jim Rawn to clarify the financial information on hand, which he did.

Robert Russo wanted to sincerely thank the EBC Sub-Committee for putting in the time and effort that this project required. Mr. Russo did question Mr. Rawn as to the project cost estimates on hand to complete the project at the new location. Mr. Rawn stated that the project cost estimate is based on the original location costs amending them in recognition of constructing the EBC at the new site.

Tom Clerkin asked why the new proposed Hubbard site was not the original site location for the EBC. Dr. Steve Luster, member of the Sub-Committee explained the

commuter lot location would have allowed for a larger space, practice court, lighting, limited residential area and the proximity to the firehouse made that the ideal location. The primary difference will be the lack of lighting for the courts. Mr. Luster also stated that the new site serves the need of a basketball court in town, we have the funding to complete the project at the new location in hand and we could start construction immediately. Mr. Clerkin stated that he approves of the site.

Rick Audet was asked by James Rawn to comment of the new site location. Mr. Audet stated that his primary concern is the impact on the neighbors, but did acknowledge that the facility already exists and that this would be a similar usage.

Mike Holmes thanked the EBC Sub-Committee for investigating alternatives to the project. He stated that he would like to meet with the Selectman to discuss but doesn't find any fault in the proposed alternative site. He feels the proposed changes to the project are very positive.

Motion was made by James Rawn to amend the previous motion to state that the Park and Recreation Commission approve in principle an alternative site for a basketball court which is to be located at Hubbard Park, which will be constructed to layover the existing Sand Volleyball Court and which the Commissioners fully understand would be on track to begin construction the week of April 9, 2012 and in accordance with the terms of the EBC Town Account under the trusteeship of Roberts Dixon, utilizing the funds already collected and committed to. Tony Mosa seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Tony Mosa to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Jim Rawn seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Barnes
Town of Essex Park and Recreation