**Parks and Recreation Committee**

**Regular Meeting**

**February 4, 2013
5:30 PM**

**APPROVED**

**Parks and Recreation Mission Statement**

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Committee is to protect, improve, and promote our parks and open space for present and future generations. The various park amenities are an integral part of the Town.

**Present:** PRAC Voting Members: Vice-Chair Jennifer Cassell, Rick Giamanco, Sue Peterson, Barb Richard. PRAC Non-Voting Members: Dan Skinner, Council Liaison Jason Smith, P&Z Liaison Yvonne Bryant, Staff Liaison Scott OBrien, Town Manager Joe Wray

**Absent:** Ruth West, who was recovering from a car accident.

**Guests:** Council Member Louis Skowyra and Dillon Business Association President Bill Falcone.

**Parks and Recreation Mission Statement**

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**Call to Order: 5:34 p.m.** by Vice Chair Jennifer Cassell.

**2013 Meeting Dates (Meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 at Town Hall)**
Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept 9, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2. The July 1 date may conflict with July 4 holiday plans and may need consideration later in the year.

**January 7 Meeting Minutes Approved**. All present in favor.

**Chair Resignation.** Susan Juregensmeier has resigned due to work conflicts. She notified everyone via email.

**PRAC Reports to Council – Quarterly**
Tuesday, March 19, 2013. Sue Peterson, Rick Giamanco, Barb Richard.

**Old Business**

Discussion of change to Parks and Open Space Zoning to allow vendor events.

Barb Richard had been contacted by 22 concerned citizens and asked if the committee wanted to hear their concerns. She also promised these people to relay the concerns to council at the Jan. 8 Public Hearing. Following is a summary of the concerns.

1. What happens if vendor and participant usage causes compaction and trampling damage of green spaces?  Does the town have the money set aside and the training to address it so that the parks recreational value is maintained?
2. Should vendor vehicles and trailers be restricted to park parking lots and not allowed to drive on lawns?
3. Should some of these events, such as the Farmer’s Market, be restricted to the Lakefront in park parking lots where they do not inconvenience existing core businesses with road closures and reduced parking?
4. Is there a plan to protect and improve the green space?  If Parks host rental activity, do part of the fees go to Parks?
5. Can green space be used to complement street/lot events with park and recreation activities occurring in conjunction with the events?  An example: A Family Afternoon Club (FAC) that features family activities such as lawn games, gold panning?
6. Parks should be for recreational use first and economic events sparingly. Money should be budgeted to create more attractive green space.
7. This wording does not address such recreation based events as: Fitness Fair, Snowboard Demo Day, Health Fair, Snowshoe Race, Bike Rodeo, Fishing Derby etc. These events would have sporting goods for sale, t-shirts, sunglasses, health products.
8. On some of the most profitable days of the year, the Farmer’s Market affects business with decreased sales, lack of parking and traffic snarls. It affects linen, food and beverage deliveries as well as service calls. How does moving the market over 50 feet into the park help this?
9. They are talking about allowing the circus and tailgating on Point Dillon Lawn. This was on SCTV. (Joe talked about a possible carnival in parks and Terry King talked about tailgating in the Grove at Ole Miss. The Grove does not allow cars, it is tents and foot traffic only.)
10. Why can’t the Farmer’s Market go back to the Lakefront? What’s the analysis?
11. Joe said that a goal is to grow the Farmer’s Market. This use change is not necessarily being done to solve existing business problems. It is still a parking and traffic nightmare at the front door to Dillon.
12. So the Farmer’s Market is going to showcase the concrete canyon and a tired out old park? That’s the best we can do?
13. No matter where the Farmer’s Market ends up it needs an Event Parking Plan with Event Parking attendants and signed event parking. Also a cable car trolley service (from Aces & Eights or another vendor). Ask the Dillon Community Church if their lot can be used officially and signed as event parking.
14. Can the Marina Park Pavilion be turned into a year round event space? There is demand especially for views like that. Fully enclose it with lots of windows and put a deck on it to allow it to be used year round for catered or reserved events.
15. If events become a permitted use for Parks, then the Parks Advisory Committee should have the right to advise on proposed events for Parks.

Dan Skinner suggested that Barb should only relay these concerns if other community members did not voice them at the Public Hearing. The committee agreed.

* Joe Wray said:
	+ The money collected from vendor fees goes into the general fund which also funds park maintenance.
	+ Recreation events are centered around recreation so recreation vendors do not need to be included in the language
	+ The Farmers Market was 35 vendors, now its 80-85 vendors and it will no longer fit in the Marina Park parking lot. There is a wind issue at the Lakefront.
	+ The goal is: How do we best utilize the spaces that we have?
* Louis Skowrya stated that it cost $20,000 for Silverthorne to replace the sod damaged by the ice castles.
* Jason Smith said he had heard concerns, but other people said let’s give this a chance. He stated that no events, other than perhaps the Arts & Crafts Fair, will be placed in Dillon Town Park until 2014.
* Scott OBrien said that the committee may want to tour what Vail is doing to their grass field.
* Jennifer Cassell said that perhaps the town should create an FAQ page for the park issues.

**New Business**

**Citizen/Guest Comments**

DBA President Bill Falcone stated that the DBA had sent out an email survey calling for comments on the proposed zoning change and had received only 3 responses. 2 For, 1 Against. The 1 against voiced the concern that the Town will not adequately care for the green space. Therefore, the DBA would be speaking out in favor of the zoning change.

Bill then voiced his own concern as a leader in the baseball community that he shares the damage concern listed as #1 above. Can it be fixed in time for baseball/softball use? The grass needs to be ready to go early. There should be no loss of use. This is a mountain environment and damage to grass here is a lot more serious than in the Midwest or South. The baseball community relies on the use of the Dillon Town Park field for girls softball, minors and majors baseball use. It is often the first field available for use in the Spring. Adult softball dominates the use of the Dam Fields and Kingdom Park fields. These fields are lighted for after-work league play and are sized for adults. The youth field in Dillon is needed.

He also unveiled the arrival of the new Academy of Baseball which is going in next to the Bowling Alley in La Riva Mall. The 3 county-wide baseball organizations, Little League, Summit Extreme and American Legion have leased the old movie theater space. The baseball community had secured $70,000 in time and materials donations to clear the space of old construction debris and ready it for the Academy. It will be a school of baseball with batting cages, mirrored walls, eye drills, etc and summer camps for baseball. Teams from surrounding counties Grand, Lake, Routt, and Eagle have all shown interest in using the facility. Summer camps will draw people to Dillon.

The existing Dillon Town Park field could be improved with moveable base lengths. Youth sports through Middle School age is where the need is. Bill feels that if the field is improved, then it will have more usage.

**PRAC openings member/officer positions**

Two openings exist for PRAC members. Officers will be selected after Ruth returns and new members are appointed.

**New date for report to Council**

March 19, 2013

**Town Park Master Plan retreat discussion**

Jennifer planned to Doodle the PRAC members regarding the next date for detailed discussion. The Primary Action item is to create a list of the Stakeholders, please bring your contact lists to the next meeting. $30,000 is available for consultant assistance.

* Dan Skinner stated that Neils Lunceford would like to bid on the project and therefore he may have a conflict of interest.

**Marina Park Paver Program document review**

Jason Smith handed out the document and asked that comments be emailed.

**Tabled**

**Old Business**

Richard driveway encroachment license

Outdoor ice skating rink survey

Park capital budget update & Marina Park update

Park signage

Summer Saturday programs

Dillon photo op spot for guests

**New Business**

Ice skating survey discussion

Saturday Morning Adventures programing

**Meeting was Adjourned at 6:47 pm.** So moved by Jennifer and seconded by Rick.

Minutes prepared by recording secretary Barb Richard.