

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of July 24 2025 site visit at Recreation Center

Members: Jim Hajjar (chair), Michelle Siudut (secretary), Kat Niemiroski, Letty Bedard (BOS rep)
Guests: Andy Grey (Rec Director), Jason Gagnon (program coordinator), Laura Hajjar (Rec Com alternate), Doug Finan, Dexter Swasey, Liz Faria

The committee met with Rec Director Andy Grey and Program Coordinator Jason Gagnon at the Rec Center at 4:30 pm. We began upstairs in the building, which has new windows, ramps and doors. Top priority this year is a furnace; currently requesting quotes. The stove upstairs will need to be replaced within 1-3 years. Downstairs is where programming (ceramics, summer camp when weather is bad) takes place. There is a new floor downstairs. They would like to add a kitchenette, as well as office space for Rec staff.

Storage is an issue, both in the building and for outdoor equipment. The garage and both storage sheds are full. Total restructuring of interior storage areas was suggested as the current setup has a lot of wasted space. Suggested reviewing the outdoor spaces for better efficiency.

Other topics discussed:

- Basketball court needs to be sealed, need new hoops and fencing
- The trails where bowhunters, peach project and holiday stroll take place need to be revamped (expected to be over \$100K) or those activities need to be relocated.
- Ice rink will need a committee of volunteers for this to happen.
- Pavilion. This area is well-used by groups and even people who just come for picnics. It is available as an add-on to the building rental.
- An irrigation system currently covers the upper field.
- Fencing on the upper field was donated by one of the adult leagues.
- Impact fees will be used to improve the drainage along the edge of the lower fields. This project is set to start in August. This is necessary for safety. In 2-4 years, that field will require an irrigation system. It was questioned if the drainage system going in could coordinate with the needed irrigation, but no.
- Question as to if the fields are used for Brentwood-only programs, or if it is all rental. Brentwood programs take precedence over rentals. Brentwood currently provides youth cricket, youth field hockey, t-ball, youth summer camp and adult softball for town residents. Will be adding adult cricket.
- They are looking at expanding parking capacity in the lower parking area, by 20-30 spaces. Estimates have ranged from \$6-\$12K. This will be something the Department will self-fund (not impact taxes).

- Snack shack needs some attention. They have purchased a hot dog machine but there are no other cooking options. Would like to winterize & insulate the building. Part of the 2026 rental agreements will require renters to volunteer at the snack shack.
- A notice board was erected by Eagle Scout Ben Almon near the snack shack.
- Hope to use “naked fence” for sponsor signage

Summary of future plans:

This year: furnace

1-3 years: Replace stove upstairs, insulate/winterize snack shack which will help with pest control

2-4 years: Kitchenette and office space in basement; re-sod top field/old diamond

3+ years: garage upgrades, picnic tables for pavillion, trails upgrade

On Aug 25 the Rec office will be closed 8:30-12:30 for them to work on a 3-year strategic plan which they hope to present by September. The Commission will be looking at alternative ways to raise money, to keep large scale projects from impacting the town budget. They will also be reviewing contract/rental rates with revisions for next year.

Visit concluded at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Siudut, Secretary