2014 was a difficult year for the Recreation Committee. During the previous year the committee membership was expanded from 9 to 11 with the addition of the Food Service and Dog Park members. In addition, the Recreation Department was given additional responsibility with Lifestyle activities. It eventually became evident the old model of membership having specific responsibilities to review and report monthly was not working. An influx of new members required we change to a new model. The old model required members to contact staff to get new information to report back. The problem was that this didn't offer any new information to the Director since she was already aware of most, if not all, of the situations being reported. The new model is more designed to ask “what can the committee do to help you?” and “what special things do you want the committee to do?” Monthly reports are submitted and included in the agenda packet. All members are expected to read the packet and reports. Any member that wants to highlight some special event or occurrence is urged to do so at the meeting. While this has worked out better it can, and will, be improved.

In the past members were assigned to a special facility or club. When Lifestyle came about it was obvious that to assign someone to Grove Park was fruitless. Thus ALL members are urged to comment on their experiences with the Lifestyle activities and to make suggestions on any improvements.

2015 will be a year of fine tuning. At the present time we are down to 7 members and, although we have applications pending, we need to make sure that 11 is required to do the job that needs to be done. We think that 9 will be all that is required.

An issue that has been prevalent across virtually all standing committees is how often their recommendations are overridden by the board on an emotional basis. Committees spend hours attempting to analyze and to make good fiscal recommendations. Three instances come to mind for Recreation: (1) lawn bowling carpet was recommended to 2017 but the board changed it to 2015 after lawn bowling enthusiasts made an impassioned plea; (2) one way to hold back on budget was the dropping of the number of life guards except for emotional pleas from the audience; and (3) it seems that fixing the single pane windows in the Natatorium has been passed over several times, yet the long term will be to keep losing energy. While we understand the board and the administration has full authority to make the decisions they have made it is very frustrating.

Respectfully submitted.

Tom Elliott, Recreation Committee Chair