

New Boston Recreation Commission

Subject: Commissioners' Meeting
Date: February 3, 2011
Location: White Buildings

Attendees:

Commissioners: Lee Brown, Kim Borges, Ken Hamel, David Hulick, Jen Martin

Staff: Mike Sindoni, Mary Manna

Guests: none

* = excused

1. The minutes of the November 16, 2010 meeting were approved.
2. Building program discussion. Lee says the west building is in need of attention, including especially carpet, walls, ceiling tiles and both bathrooms. The school will not use either building for the 2011/2012 school year. Lee proposes that we look at what improvements the school would want to maintain the buildings and to undertake it as a joint effort. Lee does not yet have an estimate. He will speak with Roger Dignard tomorrow to see what he thinks would be necessary if the west building were to be used by the school. From that we can estimate the cost. With that, discussions can be initiated with the school board. Timing would be 12 to 18 months out.
3. Finance meetings: Kim and Lee met with the committee to review the rec budget. Contribution by the town for maintenance of facilities was discussed (increasing support from \$3,500 to \$5,000). In the end, this proposal was rejected. Instead, the selectmen agreed to purchase half of the equipment rec was going to buy. The total purchase was \$8,000, of which the town will now pay half or more. This includes a shed, a ZTR mower, a leaf blower and some other tools.
4. Softball: Ken spoke with Bruce Rand at Goffstown Softball. Two issues break the deal: Goffstown insists on integrating all players and using our field without compensation. Lee also spoke with Bruce. This concept is not going anywhere. Goffstown rec's program will be taken over by Goffstown Softball, which will give them the number of players they need to stay in the Babe Ruth program. Kim wants the commission to inform the New Boston Softball organization. Lee will send a note to Rick Jones and he will also draft a letter to the Goffstown program.
5. Joe Borges and Lee have been responding to a rumor that Weare baseball was going to be invited to join the Goffstown program. Joe wrote to Don Chambers, who is a coach in Goffstown, for clarification. Chambers responded that people go to Goffstown because theirs is perceived to be a better program (more competitive and better organization). What is the intent behind the New Boston recreation baseball program? Is recreation or competition more important? Should we support both local recreation teams and a travel team? Mary says parents sometimes call asking for recreation league participation for kids that are not skilled or competitive. How do we keep the good coaches? Rec's mission is not to promote the most competitive alternative at the expense of recreation for the larger group of kids. There are different options for boys and girls.
6. Kim presented a profit & loss overview for baseball and softball comparing 2009 and 2010. Both programs operate at a loss. We need to improve by \$5,400 to break even (adjusting for the elimination of prior non-recurring expenses). There was discussion about fee levels. The consensus was to try to hold fees (for participants and sponsors) where they have been for the last two years levels. This was approved by a unanimous vote. Can we hold expenses and look for more sponsorships rather than raise fees? David proposed that some homerun derby money be used to support operations and some be used for improvements. Mike says we need some normal supplies, like baseballs. He expects no big-ticket items this year. We have the catchers' equipment we need. It would be nice to have some netting at the back of field one so we don't lose so many balls in the swamp.
7. Cabin fever dance lost \$600 in 2009 and \$700 in 2010. Mike says more than 100 people attend each year. Raising fees by \$4 would eliminate the loss. Door prizes and 50:50 raffle add some revenue. Round tables are rented for \$300. The police detail cost will go up this year. Two officers are required because there is alcohol. Mary talked about the idea of bringing back the

dinner in 2012. Boiled dinner in conjunction with St. Patrick's day. The fee has been \$15 per person. Most are sold in advance. Could we add an adult lip sync in 2012?

8. Objectives: We are still working on this. The commissioners have the responsibility to set staff objectives. The commissioners will also conduct the annual reviews. This has been cleared with the selectmen and the town administrator. A draft will be discussed at the next meeting.
9. Kim asked about the warrant article and expenses for the Old Engine House. Lee has been to a series of meetings on this subject with finance and the selectmen. Lee gave them a series of cost options. Included are flooring for the offices, but not the carpet tiles and basic painted floors in the back. The new warrant article to complete the building is \$14,000. Construction has slowed down to avoid exceeding the \$32,000 already approved.
10. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 3 at 7:00pm at the White Buildings. Meetings will typically be scheduled for the first Thursday of the month.

David Hulick, Secretary