

NB Recreation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
6:00pm in the Recreation Department Office

Staff in attendance:

Mike Sindoni and Sheri Moloney

Commissioners in attendance:

Helen Fanning, Chris Hall, Katie Hawkes, Lynn Wawrzyniak, Dan O'Brien

Commissioners absent:

Visitors:

Ryan Tewksbury, Ash St. Onge, Josh Reardon

A. Call to Order, approve meeting minutes for January 11, 2023- edited minutes approved unanimously.

B. Appointments:

- Ryan Tewksbury RE: baseball and T-Ball.
 - This year will have one majors level, 2 minors teams, and 3 rookie level teams this year. Last season our teams were competitive.
 - Mike stated that Ryan has done a great job of obtaining invested coaches. 3 are returning this year.
 - Looking to upgrade F2 with new bases and dirt. Would also like a new set of bats that meet the USA league standards (~29"-30") as well as a bunch of game and practice balls.
 - Jerseys we had last year (dry-fit) were great for all teams above T-Ball. T-shirts work well for T-ball.
 - Looking for new coaches: Getting them to access training, leading by example, attending rookie clinics – not just YouTube videos. Coaches meeting in the beginning of April. Discuss drills at each level, bounce ideas off each other, problem solve.
 - Support from the commissioners needed:
 - Parents would be willing to work towards upgrades such as lights or a new scoreboard. How would we go about that?

- Fundraising is hard. Participation is inconsistent from team to team. Some coaches do not distribute fundraising calendars to families.
 - Hard to get families to step-up and get involved. Team emails to include need for support (involvement to cheer on team and financial). Perhaps a QR code would help. Recreation Department can't do a Venmo account. Need a virtual payment option – **Sheri** will find out at the town office.
- Ash St. Onge and Josh Reardon RE: softball
 - USA Softball requires birth certificates for all players to be on file.
 - A Mission Statement for the Goffstown Youth Softball League was shared with the commissioners. Trying to enforce the message of one league, one message for all coaches and players.
 - First year – getting a successful, have coaches and assistants for 8U, 10U, and 12U. Looking for a 6U coach.
 - Looking to do a coach's clinic – field expectations, equipment sign-out along with an equipment inventory, expectation to return equipment at the end of the season.
 - Umpire clinic in March – have 10-11 people interested. Works for either baseball or softball
 - Ash is VP of Goffstown Youth Softball League to ensure there is NB representation.
 - Developing a packet for coaches to have a repertoire of drills
 - **Ash or Josh** will attend a minimum of one practice for each team during the first few weeks.
 - NHTI clinic for coaches to teach skills to their players
 - Needs: balls, new batting cage – frame and netting (have a new net for the old frame that fell apart), chalk machine, pitching rubbers, bats. Pock-marked balls for the pitching machine. Need to find out if the pitching machine even works.
 - Will try an equipment swap-shop for families.
 - Adequate practice space? Last year there were conflicts with practice space. Used upper field behind the school, but not ideal because it is full of divots from soccer. Needs to be scheduled via the recreation office. **Mike** will notify the school. Is the field by the post office available (if mowed?) Can also look into fields in Goffstown that may be available.

C. Old Business

- Retreat feedback – next steps and action items were discussed
 - Sheri will put some newsletters at CCNB
 - In March begin to plan volunteer appreciation event
 - In March will discuss programming ideas for specific demographic areas
 - Summer retreat on June 14 at 6pm instead of regular meeting. Lynn will ask Keith Gentili if he is willing to facilitate. Location TBD.
- Electronic sign
 - Collaborate with emergency management
 - Meeting with Dan MacDonald next week
 - Waiting to hear back from Sousa Signs
- Brick Fundraiser
 - Order deadline
 - No minimum number of bricks needed to order, but will need to count number of filler bricks needed
 - As of today, have sold 50 bricks
 - \$7900 in account to purchase and install. Will not fund the roof. Purpose was switched to increasing awareness of the roof needed to be done.
 - Revised project proposal is to create a safe landing at the foot of the gazebo stairs and to fix the existing path
 - Table at Voting Day on 3/14. Sheri will ask Lee Nyquist
 - 6-8-week lead-time on ordering the bricks.
 - Deadline for orders is July 4th to have for delivery in September for fall installation after farmer's market
 - Push in social media and mention in the Beacon
- Volunteer of the Year candidates were discussed. Commissioners voted unanimously on a recipient.

E. Financial

- QuickBooks Report as of 1/31/23
 - A/R about \$32,865, mostly due to Camp Coolio registrations that have not yet begun to be paid off.
 - P/L \$5,200 profit for January

- Auditors will be coming to meet with Sheri to discuss differences in their findings compared to what Sheri and Jenn Alocca had already reconciled on.
- Basketball program budget
 - Program is steady at earning about \$3,500 each season

F. Programming/Events

- Fire and Ice February 25
 - Currently the rink has about 1" of ice. Water level is low. Liner has blown into the rink
 - Cancel the event and focus on trying to get the rink open for vacation week.
 - Rink maintenance has been sporadic because of the weather.
- Camp Coolio
 - Starting July 5th. Couldn't find a substitute for the director.
 - Fee raised to \$260 per week from \$250
 - Staffing – Meeting with Shauna, new director, next week. 2 out of 7 counselors returning from last year. Currently interviewing candidates. Hoping to have at least 5 counselors.
 - Enrollment: weeks 3-6 at 35 kids. Weeks 1-2 at 30 kids – purposely keeping numbers low due to lower staff numbers.
 - Determine number of kids based on rainy-day numbers inside as well as school bus for field trips (can't fit more than 50 bodies). Safety and supervision is also a consideration.
 - School gym use is not an every-day option because it is refinished each summer and stores materials from classrooms when they are being cleaned.
 - Currently 20 on waitlist
- Baseball/Softball enrollment updates
 - Baseball – 6 teams, T-Ball at 30 currently
 - Softball – registration will probably be extended
 - No preseason clinic attendance without being registered
- Easter Event April 1 (April 8 rain date)
 - Needs to be outside – gym is too small
 - Ask George to tidy-up the town common prior to the event
 - Begin at 10:45 (really begins at 11:00am)

- Town Common for the younger kids and softball field for the older kids. Both happen simultaneously.
- Bonnet Parade was discussed. Last year there were many participants. Choosing to keep.
- Katie to do face painting. Will have a menu.
- Bunny in the gazebo with purple-draped Santa chair
- Photo booth in the gazebo or on grass (weather dependent) with bunny, large carrot, eggs, flowers
- Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) Community Report - Pathways to Play
 - Mike is trying to get New Boston to be the pilot model for the program. Of the 13 towns being considered, our town has had the best response from the surveys that were sent out.
 - **Mike** will be attending a meeting in March
 - Downfalls are that we are not a walkable community and don't have aquatics available
- New program "Walk in the Woods" on Thursday mornings beginning 3/23 through 6/29. Louise Robie will facilitate. No sign-up, just meet at town hall parking lot then carpool to an easy-to-moderate 1-1.5-hour hike in the greater New Boston area
- Basketball – Sheri will send out surveys to families soon and will have the report for the March meeting.

F. Facility/Grounds

- Awaiting ballfield grounds maintenance quotes from Justin

G. Other Business

- Lynn and Dan confirmation of 3-year term renewal for Commissioner
- Mike out Monday February 27th

H. Non-Public

I. Next Meeting- Wednesday, March 29th at 6pm, Old Engine House