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SEYMOUR RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 27, 2009

COMMUNITY CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairperson, Joe Falcha.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Harkey – Gary Bruce – Jim Geffert – Lisa Andrzejewski - Joe Falcha, Chairman – Jack Ahearn, Director - Missy Orosz, PT Associate Director.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe LaRovera – Christine Battis

OTHERS PRESENT: Gina Assinito- Skate Park concerns. Patrick Stanek and Brad Sherwinski – former employees of 2008 summer camp staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Gina Assinito spoke of her concern regarding the banning of bikes at the Skate Park. Skateboarders are not going to the park now and are on the streets which she feels is a safety issue. She also showed concern for the condition of the ramps and suggested that pressure treated plywood be used to repair the ramps by professional ramp repair personnel. She also shared that there was an agreement noted at a recent Selectman's meeting where she brought this issue up to the Selectman. Gary mentioned he thought the Skate Park was initially not designed for bikes and could cause a liability issue. The entire area is small for both skateboards and bikes. There is a sign indicating no bikes. The commission members agreed to look into her legitimate concerns. They also told her they would compare 2008 with this 2009 daily attendance records.

Patrick Stanek and Brad Sherwinsky shared their concern over the pay scale that might be offered to them as well as other returning staff that may be rehired this year as counselors. Lisa and Jen explained the freeze in the budgets of town activities. Lisa also reminded them that the children will benefit from being with all age staff this year now that they have received so many applications. The ratio will be 17-1 for summer camps.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Jennifer and seconded by Gary to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2009 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack reported a balance for line item 620-500 of \$2601.56 as of 5/26/09. A motion was made by Lisa and seconded by Jennifer to accept this report. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: A flyer from Seymour Culture and Arts listing all summer concerts and activities that are planned from June 6 through December 5, 2009.

A copy of a thank you letter from Missy to Kathie Vrlík who donated the Chip Rack and four cases of Frito Lay products for the Cougar's Den program.

A copy of a thank you letter from Missy to Beth Palumbo for a donation of a ping pong table, balls and paddles, to be used for the Cougar's Den program.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Jack and Missy reported the following:

Skate Park – Jack showed the figures of attendance the first four weeks that the Skate Park has been open. It has not been well attended so far this year.

Summer Camp/Swim lessons – two lifeguard/swim instructors have been secured.....see Old Business.

Youth Center – Missy reported the Cougar's Den will be open 6/5 with Christine in charge as Missy is unavailable that evening. It will also be open 6/6 and 6/12 will be a special event. There will be a family night 5/29. The Cougar's Den night scheduled for 6/19 will be cancelled due to the High School Graduation. There may be an end of summer Family Night held as well. Family night for 6/29 has been cancelled. The program will start up again in the fall.

Travel/Trips –

Mets game for 5/30 has a few seats left

The Lake George trip – 3/19 - 8 tickets left.

Boston Pops trip - 8/30

Radio City Show – 11/25 - will be advertised soon

Seymour Cultural & Arts may have some additional funds to be used for recreation programs. Jack will check on this.

Spring programs – Missy reported that all the new spring programs are now completed and were successful. A program survey was given to parents. This will be helpful when fall programs start up. Feedback was positive and several commended Missy for organizing great programs.

Missy will be looking into fall programs and trips for teens.

Summer youth tennis programs will run 6/29-8/7/09 at the fee of \$30.00 for residents and \$40.00 for non-residents. Thirty minute sessions for 3-4 year olds will be held Monday or Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 and for 5 year olds on Tuesdays from 6:00-6:30 PM. Children aged 6-7 will have the opportunity on Monday or Tuesdays from 6:30-7:15 PM. Older children aged 8-9 will participate on Mondays 7:15-8:00 PM or Wednesdays from 6:30-7:15 PM. Children 10-11 will participate Tuesday or Wednesday from 7:15-8:00 and those 12-13-14 will be Mondays 8:00-8:45 PM. Pre-registration is on a first come first serve basis by June 18, 2009. No registrations will be taken at the courts or on the phone. Sign-up nights are 5/28, 6/1 and 6/2 from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Community Center. Children must supply their own racquets. It was suggested that a late fee be set up for next year for those who register last minute.

Gary asked for a written report on each of the new spring program including time lines. Everyone agreed this would be very helpful when planning future activities. He also suggested the spring 2009 program be used for future programs too.

OLD BUSINESS: The lifeguarding program has been postponed until the fall due to no one signing up for the present one.

Summer Camps – there were 75 applications for staffing for summer camps, 55 were interviewed for the 22 openings that are available. Interviews have been completed. There was a lot of feedback from those reapplying this season. Most were glad to hear of positive changes that will take place. Parents were glad to see a more structured program will be in place. Close to 300 are registered for the two camps at this time and more are expected to register this week. Most parents were receptive of the price increase.

Orientation training for counselors will be held at their assigned parks as follows:

Gary Park - June 9, 2009 from 3:30-5:30

Chatfield Park – June 10, 2009 from 3:30-5:30

Hired staff will be paid for these two hours of training, however, they will not be paid for taking the First Aid/CPR course required because they will be receiving this training which will be paid for by the Recreation Department.

- Mandatory CPR and/or First Aid training will be required for any staff who does not have current and valid certification.

- Monday – 6/15 – CPR training

- Tuesday – 6/16 CPR recertification is required for all returning staff

- Thursday – 6/18 - First Aid training (Head and Assistant Counselors Only)

All trainings will be held at the Community Center from 6:00-9:00 PM. Successful completion of the CPR certification is mandatory, without which the offer for hire will be rescinded.

General hygiene issues will be covered at orientation as well as first aid training.

- Missy will order supplies for the camps. Gary will supply Missy with sticky name tags and markers.

- Camp counselors will be given three staff shirts indicating Seymour Recreation on the front and STAFF on the back. Staff will be expected to wear these shirts daily. Jack will order them for the staff.

- Jack will check out the present prepaid cell phones that will be used by the Head counselors at both camps. It will be the head counselor's responsibility to keep the phone charged and in proper repair during the season. Any damage to the phone while in her/his care, will be the counselor's financial responsibility. Jack will order these as well.

- An ice cream vendor will be secured. The one from previous years will be asked to come to the parks at 11:00. Another ice cream vendor may be interested as well. Jack will get bids from both of them.

- 2 lifeguard/instructors have been secured.

- Walkie-talkies were suggested for all counselors at both camps. It would become the employee's responsibility to keep it charged. Jack will research the prices on these items and order them.

After a lengthy discussion of the proposed changes for the summer camps, the following took place.

At 10:00 PM a motion was made by Gary and seconded by Jennifer to go into Executive Session to discuss camp staff personnel. All in favor, motion carried.

At 10:45 the Commission came out of Executive Session and continued the meeting.

Jack will contact those who will be offered the positions of Head Counselors and Assistant Counselors. He will discuss mandatory training dates and rates of pay to be offered. Jennifer, Joe F. and Lisa will call all other staff. Missy will send out all letters for staff hired, rejected and those who will be alternates.

A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Jennifer to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

The next regular meeting scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Community Center. Members are reminded to contact Joe F. if they cannot attend.**

Respectfully submitted minutes but not yet approved - Jean Banks, Recording Secretary