

SEYMOUR RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 22, 2009

COMMUNITY CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairperson, Joe Falcha.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe LaRovera – Christine Battis – Jennifer Harkey – Gary Bruce – Joe Falcha, Chairman – Missy Orosz, PT Associate Director.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Geffert – Lisa Andrjewski – Jack Ahearn, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bill Peck, of the Parks Commission mentioned the play scape that has been in storage for over a year now. It will be put up temporarily in the field next to the Community Center. Also a bocce court will be set up there as well. There is a grant for senior citizen gym equipment for use indoors and outdoors. Permits to use the parks have increased over 50% since last year. Comcast Care Day will be held Saturday, April 25 at French Park where some cleanup projects will take place. The park will be closed to the public from 8:00-1:00 PM. The flag pole at the park will be lit up when funds become available to do so. He enlightened the commission members of general town park use.

Bobbi Komaromi, Zumba instructor, mentioned how the first class held this week was well received with over 40 women participating. Some have suggested she have a second night each week. She proceeded to explain the lengthy preparation time and expense she put into this program and would like to increase her share of the profits into a 60/40 split of any participation of over 15 people. She reminded members that even at that rate the town Recreation Department would be making a profit. She does all her own registering and advertising of the program itself. She recommends increasing the price for the fall program and increasing her profit for the present program as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Joe L and seconded by Jennifer to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2009 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Missy Orosz reported a balance for line item 620-500 of \$2856.61 as of 4/20/09. A motion was made by Joe L. and seconded by Jennifer to accept this report. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: A letter from Jim Caprio, Ice Cream man, requesting to sell ice cream at the summer camps.

A request from Dean Meier, of the Seymour Martial Arts Academy, to use the Cougar's Den for extra dates. Missy agreed to contact him to secure more information regarding if the use would be for his students or outsiders.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Missy reported the following:

Skate Park – Joe F. communicated with Bob Koskelowski regarding Rampage vs. Town employees repairing the ramp at the Skate Park. As it stands now, the town crew will repair it and hopefully open it by May 1. It will not be officially opened by the Recreation Department until the ramp is repaired. The 2 employees hired last year are willing to return to help supervise the park once it opens.

At the last meeting the Commission agreed to open the park under Recreation Department control with Rampage making the repairs. Joe L. offered to discuss with Bob Koskelowski the Commissions feeling uncomfortable about opening the park if repairs are not made by and inspected by certified ramp repair people. Full inspections are done after by Rampage who has done repairs in the past. These inspections are deemed necessary.

Summer Camp/Swim lessons Jennifer and Lisa gathered several pages of information and concerns from parents of children who have attended the parks in the past. (More information under Old Business).

Youth Center – Missy reported the need for chaperones for 6th grade nights continues to be a major concern. She suggested again, that it might be necessary to hire an adult or college student to help with the program if funds are available. Another issue might be to limit the attendance on that night to 50 children only. Selling of tickets at the Middle School beforehand was also mentioned again. Christine offered to contact the Police Department to see if an officer would be able to stop by on that night when it is so crowded. Supervision needs to be enforced. Some parents have signed up then last minute are not able to attend, leaving Missy responsible for too many children at one time. The 7th-8th grade night is going well with about 40 in attendance as compared to the 6th grade night when close to 100 show up. Parents should be coming in to sign them in and out.

Karate- Dean Meier has requested more dates through December 12, 2009 for testing. Missy will contact him to get more details.

Travel/Trips – Andre Rieu concert on 4/24 is sold out. Lucy M. will take charge while Jack is in Sicily this week and next week.

The Lake George trip is scheduled for August 19.

Boston Pops trip for 8/30 has 6 tickets left.

Spring programs – Missy reported that all the new spring programs are growing. There is even a waiting list for the pre-school sports mania on Wednesdays. There are already 20 participants. A second session will be added late spring.

OLD BUSINESS:

At 8:25 pm a motion was made by Joe L. and seconded by Christine to go out of order from the agenda in order to discuss school vacation policy before summer camp. All in favor, motion carried.

School vacation policy- rules need to be uniform for all school closure days. Missy offered to write up some policy covering this. Unless it's a holiday, it was suggested that the Community Center can and should be open if programs are scheduled. This was not put into a motion at this time.

Back to agenda at 8:35 to discuss Summer Camps.

Summer Camps - Jennifer explained the suggestions she and Lisa came up with for improving the summer camps. They interviewed several parents to get some feedback. Some of the suggestions that will be taken into consideration will be:

- A better check in/out system with name tags that will be collected at the end of the day
- One main senior counselor in a designated spot all the time for each camp
- Shift rotates daily.
- Staff will be trained about the new improved program – 2 hrs.
- Counselor/child behavior and discipline guidelines will be discussed with staff
- A game schedule for each week with theme days and events will take place
- A new staffing ratio was discussed along with new pay scales
- Program price will be increased
- Ice cream man will be requested to come at a later time in the day
- Clean up time will be put into daily schedule so parks will be left cleaner
- Better trained staff will be addressed and encouraged to participate with the children
- Total reorganization will take place
- Former staff will need to interview again each year
- Community Center to be open on the rainy days so the program won't have to cancel for the day. If it rains on Friday however, there will be no camp.
- 2 prepaid cell phones – 1 for each camp for the Senior counselor (camp use only)
- Porta potties need to be cleaned more often

New fliers will be sent through the schools with the new fee and new information on it.

After a very lengthy discussion the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Joe L. to increase the new summer camp program fee to \$55.00 per child and a fee of \$115.00 for families with 3 or more children.

Joe F. –yes Joe L- yes Jennifer-yes Gary-yes (Christine had left at 9:15 before this vote).

A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Joe L. to restructure the staff into three categories Regular counselor, Assistant Counselor and Head Counselor. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Jennifer to hire all new staff at \$8.00 per hr. for counselor; \$9-\$10.00/hr. Assistant counselor; and \$10.-\$11.00/hr. for 2 head counselors. All in favor, motion carried.

Skate Park- Joe L. will speak with Bob Koskelowski regarding Commission member's decision on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Missy explained that she would like to take the trainer certification so she can run in-house trainings. The course is a 4-6 week course, 2 nights a week at the pool at a cost of \$300 per person. The course is for people 16 and up who want to get Lifeguard certification to be a lifeguard. Upon completion the person will have CPR, First Aid, AED and Lifeguard/Waterfront Lifeguard certifications. The class will be taught by someone else who is a trainer with Missy assisting. The fee would cover the instructors cost, renting the mannequins, books for all, pocket masks for all, certifications as well. Participants would get to keep the books and pocket mask and would be certified as a lifeguard.

A motion was made by Jennifer and seconded by Joe L. to have Missy take the lifeguard training course herself even if we can't get six people to take it at this time.

Joe F- yes Joe L. -yes Jennifer-yes Gary-yes Christine-abstained

A motion was made by Jennifer and seconded by Gary to have Jim Caprio sell ice cream at the summer camps. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Joe F. and seconded by Jennifer to approve the change of the fee schedule for the Zumba Class to 60-40 in favor of the instructor after 15 people participate. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Joe L. to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

The next regular meeting scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, May 27, 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