

SEYMOUR RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2008

COMMUNITY CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairperson, Joe Falcha.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Falcha (left 8:00)- – Christine Battis (arrived 8:15)– Joe LaRovera – Jennifer Harkey (left 8:20)– Jim Geffert (arrived 8:00)– Gary Bruce – Jack Ahearn, Director – Missy Orosz, PT Associate. Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Thompson

PUBLIC COMMENT None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Jennifer and seconded by Gary to accept the minutes of the October 22, 2008 meeting. After the following change:
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jennifer, not by Christine.
All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack reported the following:
Contracted services line item -620-500 estimated total balance as of 11/19/08.....\$12,986.73.
A motion was made by Joe L. and seconded by Jennifer to accept this report. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: George J. Hummel Little League has requested two additional dates of November 19 and November 22, 2008 to hold winter hitting and fielding clinics.

Gym request from Bernie Malesky of the Connecticut Hurricanes requesting weekends (Saturdays and/or Sundays) beginning December 14, 2008.through April 26, 2008.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT Missy discussed the signups for the Youth Basketball program have been very successful with a total of 308 participants on thirty-four teams. Practices began on November 17 and games will start the week of December 8. Gyms being used for the program are:
Community Center Monday-Friday 6:00-9:00 PM and Saturday 11:30 AM-3:30 PM.
LoPresti School - Monday –Friday 6:00-9:00 PM
Bungay School Friday only - 5:30 -8:30 PM

There will be no basketball on school holidays, vacations, half days or early closing days due to weather. T-shirts have been ordered for all teams. Missy has been working many long hours on the schedules and the entire program and the commission commended her for her dedication.

Jack and Missy discussed their concerns over the assistant to the basketball director's unavailability to work. As it turns out, the assistant to the basketball director has numerous commitments and, as a result, has not been able to satisfactorily work the required minimum number of hours discussed. Because of these scheduling conflicts, the Commission supported the

Recreation Directors recommendation to inform the individual his services were no longer required.

Hopefully someone will come forward to help the director with the program which would free Missy to create new programs. Jack continues to advertise for help with the youth basketball program. He will contact the newspaper to show these are paid positions.

Jack is still looking for people who would like to keep score or time at the games.

Jack will send a letter to Mr. Doyle reminding him that he still owes for gym rental fees for use of the gym over the summer to run a basketball camp.

Trips- Radio City Christmas Show on 11/16 was well received.

NYC for the day – 12/6

Yankee Candle/Holyoke Mall – 12/10

Boston Pops at Harbor Yard – 12/13

Spring trip to Sicily – 4/29/09 - will be advertised soon.

Another inquiry at the Middle School for gym time has been made. They are checking to see when the soccer program ends and the gym becomes available.

OLD BUSINESS:

Youth Basketball Update –see above

Youth Center Opening – Rules & Regulations – the opening was very successful and Missy had planned the first Family Night to take place 11/19/08 but was rescheduled to a later date in December. The 7th/8th grade night, which was scheduled for 11/12, was rescheduled for 11/19 due to a conflict with the Middle Schools November Thunder program.

Several Commission members offered to be chaperones again.

Skate Park Closing – Joe L. will ask Dennis to tarp the ramps up. Youth are still using the park even though it has been officially closed.

High School pool rules/regulations update – Gary suggested having people sign off that they have read the pool rules/regulations that are printed out on paper. Nothing is publicly posted on the walls at the pool. Jack informed members that everyone who uses the pool with the Recreation Program receives a printout of the rules when they sign up. Jack was asked to put a copy of the Seymour Recreation rules on the bulletin board at the pool in case they need to be referred to at any time.

CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY FAIR:- Due to Missy’s very busy schedule she suggested that the 3rd annual holiday fair this year take place on Friday, December 19 in conjunction with the Family Night at the Cougar’s Den. This would be held for children in grades K-5 in the cafeteria area from 6:30-9:00 PM. Jack will secure the cafeteria. Christine offered to get the leftover supplies from Donna Ragaini. Missy will do a press release. Jennifer will work with Missy on a flyer to be ready this week for the schools to hand out. Gary will check to see on Santa’s availability and get back to Missy with that information. Children would be asked to enter through the cafeteria rather than the Cougar’s Den entrance. The event might be advertised on the marquee outside of the Community Center. Light refreshments would be served. One concern might be traffic if the gym is being used that night for games and the Cougar’s Den open too. The church will be called to see if they have any activities that would need the parking lot as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Future of the Skate Park- There was a discussion of the possible options to have a new Skate Park either in the field next to the Community Center or a designated area in the Industrial Park which the members deemed not feasible. A Playscape, which has been sitting in the town garage for quite some time now, could also be put in the field if allowed. The Skate Park as it is right now is in very poor condition.

Jack is looking into having a knitting class.

Everyone present agreed that the Recreation Commission calendar needs to be reviewed and planned at least 3-6 months in advance. Discussions for programs need to be started and formed many months ahead of time.

Both Christine and Joe L. were presented Awards of Distinction for getting the Youth Centers “Cougar’s Den” up and running last year after many months of planning.

A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Christine to approve the dates requested by the Little League with the stipulation that the Recreation Department can take back dates if needed for Recreation Programs. The hours may need to be changed to 4:00-8:00 PM. Motion carried.

Jim – yes Joe L. – yes Christine-yes Gary-yes
Joe F. and Jennifer had left prior to this voting.

The Hurricanes will also be allowed dates they requested with the stipulation that the Recreation Department can take back some of the Sunday’s if needed for Recreation Programs. Jack will notify them if any changes need to take place.

A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Christine to approve the dates of the Commission meetings for 2009. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Christine and seconded by Gary to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

The next regular meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday, **December 17, 2008 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