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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Seymour Community Center- Room #107
Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 6:30 PM

Members present: Glenn Green, Janice Keough, Jamie Yakushewich, Joe Larovera, Colleen Lundgren

Others Present: Director of Community Services Mary McNelis, Recreation manager Zack Philippas, Jodi Mozdzer Gil, Darek Gil

Item #1: Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Item #2: Pledge of allegiance

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3: Public comment

Town resident Jodie Mozdzer Gil of Garden Street is to talk about her kayak proposal.

Item #4: Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Item #5: Approval of minutes 8/23/17

There was a motion to approve the 8/23/17 minutes.

Motion: Colleen Lundgren Second: Glenn Green

Approved 5-0

Item #6: Approval of Treasures report

There was a motion to approve the Treasures report, after it was stated that the Recreation department is doing well with funding.

Motion: Colleen Lundgren Second: Janice Keough

Approved 5-0

Item #7: Presentation of kayak proposal

Mrs. Mozdzer Gil stated that there is nowhere close to Seymour to kayak, even though we have two rivers in the town. She proposed that we could be generating business by drawing people to our town to kayak on our rivers. Also, she suggested that kayaks could be rented from the community center like library books. There is a place to launch the kayaks right next to the community center in the Naugatuck River, and three places to launch on the Housatonic. There would have to be somebody working to regulate the rentals. There would be a concern about cleaning the kayaks after use in order to not bring different organisms into our rivers. Liability was discussed, it was stated that the insurance would be similar to the skate park. The bottom

of Squantuk road offers a launch site and is owned by the town. It was discussed whether it would be better for there to be only one launch site and to have the kayaks stored there. This would be harder for the town to approve, as it would be off site of the recreation department. There are grants that could be applied for to fund this project. Building a structure could be done by the boy scouts as a project or by the high school shop class. The possibility of creating a subcommittee was discussed. The kayak idea would also help sales at the restaurants on the river. It was discussed whether or not they could build on that property. A waiver will be needed for people to rent the kayaks. The main things that need to be addressed are the liability and the structure. An attorney would most likely want to see the whole plan in order to examine possible liabilities. The issue will be tabled until next meeting after Mary McNelis looks into the issue of liability and the structure.

Item #8: Recreation manager/Directors report

There was a discussion on the basketball season. The senior girl's team has six members, but no coach. The girls cannot go play in Oxford, as their teams are full. Everyone who Zack Philippas, the Recreation Manager, has asked has declined. There are four travel teams, which pulls away from the girls attending the regular girl's teams. The commitment for a coach is two days a week of one hour each. The town can no longer hold practices at the middle school, which makes scheduling more difficult. The manager stated he would check with Oxford again to see if there's anything they can do. The department does not want to not have the team due to a lack of a coach. For basketball games, the manager wants to switch to a rotating numbers system, in which players would rotate every five minutes. This would even out playing time discrepancies. It could be used for all 4 quarters or just 3 quarters then the coach could choose which players play for the fourth quarter. Also, this rotating method would maximize playing time evenly for all players. The committee expressed that it would be beneficial to begin the season with this and carry it all the way through the season. The dodgeball tournament went well. They will need more refs next year and need a few rule changes. The Middle school is a better setting for the tournament. Mary McNelis stated that at the crpa conference she learned basketball numbers are down everywhere. Some places are moving to two hours one day a week where one hour is practice and one hour is playing. The tennis program and travel teams are playing at Chatfield. The floor is very slippery in the Chatfield gym. The rec department has been in contact with School Administration who is looking into the situation.

Item #9: 2018 recreation commission meeting calendar approval

There was a discussion of the calendar, which resulted in the decision for the committee to take July off and meet instead in August. Also, in 2018 the meetings will begin at six PM.

There was a motion to approve the calendar with these changes.

Motion: Janice Keough

Second: Jaime Yakushewich

Approved 5-0

Item #10: Discussion and approval of winter programs and activities

It was stated that the commission needs to approve another session of line dancing, water exercise, Jump Program, and little tykes karate.

There was a motion to approve these programs.
Motion:Colleen Lundgren Second:Glenn Green
Approved 5-0

Item #11:Public comment

No public comment.

Item #12:Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn at 7:35PM.
Motion:Janice Keough Second:Colleen Lundgren
Approved 5-0