

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 3/7/18
TIME: 11:45 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Seymour Community Center- Room #107

Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 6:00 PM

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

Members Absent: Jaime Yakusewich, Mike Massie, Phil Wilhelmy

Others Present: Director of Community Services Mary Mcnelis, Recreation Program Manager Zack Phillippas

Item #1: Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:21PM.

Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Item #3: Election of Chairman

Glenn Green nominated Joe Larovera for the position of Chairman.

Janice seconded this nomination.

Approved 3-0

Item #4: Election of Vice- Chairman

Joe nominated Janice as Vice-chairman

Colleen seconded this nomination.

3-0

Item #5: Election of Secretary

Tabled

Item #6: Public comment

No public comment.

Item #7: Correspondence

Zack received an email from an individual who expressed his concerns about how basketball is run. He said that the basketball game is set start to finish, as in the winners are determined by how many older players they have. He said that his team has more third graders than some of the other teams who have a larger proportion of 4th graders, and so they are at a disadvantage. The individual expressed his belief that some coaches aren't as good as others, and some coaches are more about winning than the kids. He feels some rules need to be changed, for example with the current three pass rule that occurs when one team is fifteen points ahead, coaches are yelling out the count on the passes from the side. The recreation manager stated that this year it was a fairly even distribution of 4th and 3rd graders per team. The teams are broken up evenly based on grade. Zack said that they could possibly do a coaches camp next

year. The individual called and said he understood, and that Zack explained all he wanted to know.

Item #8: Approval of minutes: 12/29/17

Motion to approve the December minutes: Glenn Green

Second: Janice Keough

Approved 4-0

Item #9: Approval of Treasures Report

Motion to approve: Janice Keough

Second: Glenn Green

Approved 4-0

Item #10: Recreation Manager's/Director's Report

Mary discussed how there has been talk of merging the parks, senior citizens, and rec boards. She said that it makes sense from a budget standpoint, but there are pros and cons.

The programs went well this past season. Right now, rec basketball, line dancing, and swim lessons are ending. Marcy's tennis academy, pickup basketball, men's over 30 league, swim lessons, and mini ninjas are the current programs going on. Future programs need to be approved for adult coed volleyball and adult flag football. There was discussion about setting up offers for residents to possibly buy cheaper Yankees tickets or pay for both the tickets and a bus up to the game. There is a Yankees vs blue jays game soon, and another game in September. A possible offer is a 3 game pack for \$122 total. With transportation the price may be raised. The department may try to get tickets at discounted rate to sell. There was discussion of whether people want just tickets or transportation as well. Oxford is also running a bus to the September Yankees game. Another option for the town is to sell two tickets for discounted prices, one a yankee-red socks game and another to be selected. Janice Keough said she thought that residents like the transportation. Mary McNelis emphasized these packages are expensive for families, and so do not appeal to them. Colleen Lundgren said typically in Oxford mainly adults are interested, not families. Mary McNelis said that since Oxford is doing Yankees games maybe Seymour should do Mets. Joe Larovera suggested providing a day trip type thing, including a drive up to Quincy Market prior to the game. Mary stated that the playground camp will run eight weeks with no price change dependent on the end of school date. They are bringing in new summer programs, such as a soccer camp taught by Tom Cunningham, a volleyball camp taught by Tom Czaplinski, a wildcat camp, a skills and drills camp, a summer football camp, a fashion camp, a drone camp to teach kids about drones and how to fly them, and a mad scientists spy camp.

The department is going to try C.I.T. program, which is a counselor in training program for 14 and 15 year olds. The kids would be taught leadership skills and be assigned to a team. It would also give kids a place to be during the summer and prepare them to later become counselors. The department would charge about half the cost of the regular camp. Mary stated she received 3 to 4 calls in February/March about whether there is something for 14 year old kids in the summer.

Mary handed out the recap of how the department did in 2017. She has been keeping data. Registrations have grown. The department is serving a huge amount of seniors and younger kids. The middle age group is growing. Summer camps and vacation programs remained steady. Colleen said that in Oxford schools population is down, which may affect enrollment. Senior memberships have grown recently. Pool membership has dropped because access is harder, and team schedules are hard to work around. The department did not offer fall swim lessons, and usually people sign up for open swim when they do lessons. Increased security at the schools has also caused it to be harder, as getting approvals for pool use from the school is much harder. The school denied the department's request for pool use Saturday morning in the Spring, and stated that it is because the track team needs all the locker rooms in that area. The fitness center is doing really well. The department is looking at opening it up at night. Another thought is to try to have it open during practices, so that parents can go while their children are playing.

Bus use was up last year. Campers were transported from Bungay to the high school for swimming. It saved a lot of money to use the Community Center bus instead of getting a school bus. The department needs a new community center bus.

Facility upkeep continues to be a challenge, as the Rec center is a very old building. The department is having a space problem because there are so many programs. Right now, the offices are very spaced out. Utilization of the space could result in more space for programs to be held. The old cafeteria needs work, cannot be used for programs as it is now very run down. The Senior fit/ strong program brought in senior free exercise programs with 20-25 people per class. There is talk of a community garden. The United Way would be paying for garden. Janice Keough made a motion to approve the Spring and Summer programming and tentative yankee socks game program.

Colleen Lundgren seconded

Approved 4-0

Item #11: Update on Kayak Program

Mary said she reached out to the attorney but did not hear anything back.

Item #12: Public comment

No public comment.

Item #13: Adjournment

Janice Keough made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 pm

Second: Colleen Lundgren

Approved: 4-0