

Recreation Commission Minutes
for meeting of June
June 9, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

In Attendance: Leona Stevens (Chair), Bill Coye (Vice-Chair), Pat Buckley, Kristin Savage, Ed Aziz, Tom Alberti (Alt.), Dan Poliquin (BOS Rep),

Excused: Wendy Moley, Sue Sherman and Carli Malette

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Approval of May, 2010 minutes will be reserved for the July meeting.

Commission will meet in July and take August off and return to regular schedule for September.

T. Alberti was present at his third consecutive meeting and presented a letter of interest to serve on the Commission. Motion by K. Savage and 2nd by E. Aziz to approve Tom for the alternate position. Vote was unanimous. D. Poliquin will inform the BOS accordingly. Welcome to the Rec Comm Tom!

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Director's update stated that budget numbers not yet prepared and that the TM has not provided direction as of yet regarding budget preparation. The Rec Comm discussed things they would like to see in the upcoming budget, if not resolved prior to. These included but were not limited to: adding guardrails AND adding crushed stone around edges of certain drive area for safety reasons and grass preservation at PARC (this will be discussed with the Town Highway Dept to see if this can be done sooner than later, and it will be requested if done to structure guardrails to try and "funnel" pedestrian foot traffic to one area for safety reasons); put money in the budget as previously in CIP for prepping the land for both playscapes and pavilion; budget for a tent next year to be used at PARC for summer rec program if no pavilion is built; money for more seating (picnic tables and benches); consider adding basketball court, street hockey and skinning an infield for another softball/t-ball field (all low cost improvements and adding additional recreational uses).

Discussion followed about whether the Town could look into other town land in the area and purchasing/swapping or acquiring through other means for the future expansion of the site.

Note: the Rec Comm and Friends of Rec are still pursuing the idea of a skating area at PARC this winter.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

The Director was not present due to illness and submitted a report to the Rec Comm Chair. (See below)

Registration forms for summer 91 as of 6/10, 17 pending that I have talked to in the past week, some pending in Human Services also hoping for financial assistance.

Buses booked, still adding some trips, doing 3 older camper trips to canoeing, lazar maze tag and vertical dreams rock climbing. Confirmed for all our state pack trips. parent letter mailer will go out the first of next week. Met with Kate Arts & Crafts Dir, Mike Withee Special Projects and Tara Asst Dir on the schedule for summer looks great. Erin is at Grad School been in touch with her also, she is working on the data base for groups. She will be down here for orientation.

Staff Orientation/LGC Training 6/23, Staff meet the Selectmen 6/21, staff recert for cpr 6/24, new cpr class 6/17

All concerts confirmed, first one is 6/30

Senior trips are filling fast. Next week the Senior Hyannis trip Tara (rec summer asst dir.) is taking the trip for me. She is an employee, CPR First Aid Cert. and completed the LGC training course, she will do a good job. Everything is all laid out for her.

We have red sox tickets for all three games left.

Working on end of season and what the different teams want to do ice cream sundea's, Stillwells or cook out. T Ball, Scatter T Ball and hopefully the three Farm teams will all be done on June 17th. Waiting on the rest. Leona is picking up the trophies tomorrow from Crown Trophy in Hooksett. Thank you to Kristen to picking up and running with Scatter T Ball, heard many nice things thanks. Thanks you to Wendy also for all the work and help. Wendy is going to schedule the umps for play offs.

Timberlane Junior Football and Cheerleading will be submitting a request for money, it will be ready for the July meeting.

Problem with field usage Pollard, Sue Sullivan called and we were able to work everything out. They had a usage form and we did also there was not room for them one night.

Ideas for 2011 - adding before and after care for summer rec (I would have to work on the details a little more and the funding)

expanding the parking lot as you enter PARC off Old County, left side of the road make that into parking

we will have to increase the baseball and softball lines to cover higher league fees

if anyone has any ideas please e mail them to me, as of yet we do not have any directives on budget planning yet, I will keep you informed

Scroll and web have been updated, when the rest of the calender is done that will be up too.

DISCUSSION ON DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Town web-site is in desperate need of updating. There is very little new information on it since April. Rec Comm had asked for updated info to be put on concerning summer rec program and scheduled trips so people were aware of dates and which weeks to sign children up for. Red Sox games are not listed on calendar – and there should be an updated notice that tickets remain available. Rec Comm wants to see all ticket being purchased through Plaistow and not sold to another town as occurred last year.

In the Director's absence, she is able to address some e-mails and calls; others are being handled by Town Hall staff. Unfortunately, there were discussions of many Rec Comm members being contacted as they were not getting information, answers or responses. It was discussed that if the Director's absence is going to be extended that there need to be some guidelines in place for all so that the Rec Comm and TM all have same understanding of who is doing what so that Recreation continues to move forward especially in this its busiest time of the season.

The Rec Comm will arrange a meeting with the TM a.s.a.p. to discuss these things and extend the offer to assist in the Director's absence and to help the TM develop a plan as needed. Items to be discussed will include but not be limited to how Summer Recreation will be overseen; who will the contact be for concerns, questions etc and collect funds every Monday; who will accompany summer rec on programs out of town and especially on "water" trips; who will organize concerts; how phone calls and e-mails will be addressed; equipment turn-in; whether the Rec Comm members could assist the Town by attending the LGC Training on June 23rd;

PARC SIGNAGE

Rec Comm decided to move forward with the advertising signs. The Chair will contact Dan Kelly and see if he

is willing to make a “advertise your business here” sign for free, and in turn put up one of his own business advertising signs for free for the 2010 and 2011 calendar years. It is the hope this will generate interest and income.

Rec Comm also decided that it is ok for 2 businesses to share a sign, so long as they stay with the color and size requirements, and that any signs purchased in 2010, will be extended to cover the 2011 calendar year as well. Next payment on these signs would be due for 2012 calendar year.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL end of season

All is coming along well as reported by K. Savage (scatterball), T. Alberti (tee ball), B. Coye (Little League) and P. Buckley (softball). Equipment turn in will be discussed to ensure we get all equipment back from coaches in a timely nature.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL 2011 season

When will sign-ups be? They need to be done prior to Jan 1 to pay league dues. Possibility of Nov 6th or 20th. The 13th would not be good as it is a long weekend from school. (NOTE: The 6th may not be good either as it is the final day of fall soccer). Next year, age policies will be in place. A representative of baseball and softball will be present at the sign-up table to ensure every child is placed in their proper playing division to avoid the discrepancies of this past year. The form at sign-ups should not reflect “try-outs” but rather a “draft/evaluation day” as the spring program is recreational not a try-out as everyone plays.

Little League will meet with all coaches and ensure they have been given proper rules for their division. T. Alberti will work on updating a set for tee ball as he is just coming off a season of coaching.

Consider having t-ball rotate so that they are playing an average of every other game on a diamond.

Would like to pursue sponsorships for teams next year.

GOLF

The Director has stated that she would be unable to do a golf program in 2010 due to her absence. The Rec Comm decided that they would take responsibility for establishing a golf program for this year. In order to do so, the sets of kid’s golf clubs will be retrieved and stored at PARC. The Chair will contact Garrison and Apple Hill to see if they can offer programs or discounted rates and potentially a loan program could be established for club use.

FRIENDS OF PLAISTOW RECREATION REPORT

Friends is actively moving forward with prep for OHD and will have a booth with shushies and games on Saturday and the dunk tank, Jr Olympics and cow patty bingo on Sunday.

The Fall Festival is scheduled for Sat, Sept 25th. We will not meet in July.

Concessions is going great. Still committed to the playscape, just waiting for SEC reports and final plan before we start meeting with vendors again and renegotiating a contract.

Friends voted at the last meeting to turn back the cutting of “umpire” checks to the Town beginning the 2011

season. It is too much of a liability for Friends to continue, and it is too costly. Plus, it just doesn't make sense. There will be no other funds or payments made through Friends' account without prior written approval by Friends.

A discussion then ensued as to how umpires are chosen and hired to work Town of Plaistow recreational baseball and softball games.

POLICIES

It is the general consensus of the Rec Comm that policies need to be written and adhered to – no more verbal policies. Policies to be drafted shall include but not be limited to:

- 1.Coaches Policy: rules and expectations, and zero tolerance!
- 2..Baseball age enrollment: Spring season has special rules as determined and adopted by the 4 town collectively known as "Rockingham League." Ages by May 1: Farm 6 & 7; Minor B 8 & 9, except an exceptional 7 year old to play with his grade level with the League President's approval; Minor A 10-12, , except an exceptional 9 year old to play with his grade level with the League President's approval; Majors. Must play at least one year of Minor A prior to, ages 11 and 12.
In the summer, they shall follow the Little League Rules or whatever league we are a member of.
Need to definite scatterball (3 and 4) and tee ball (5 and 6)
3. Softball age enrollment: cut off for age is Jan 1: U8: 7 & 8; U10: 9 & 10; U 12: 11 & 12; and, U16 is 13, 14, 15, and 16 (mostly the younger age). Kids should have a year of tee ball before playing softball unless they are 7 years old. Most kids will play 2 years in each age group before moving up a level. Because softball registration numbers are consistently lower than baseball numbers, there has to be room for flexibility. Proponent of playing with your age and grade. No group/local rule concerning ages, each town does as they see fit. Check out web-site: NH softball.com, then league links, then southern NH.
4. Summer recreation enrollment age guideline policy
5. Thunder and Lightening (Inclement Weather) Field Usage Policy
6. Comp Policy for Coaches (both asst and head), Rec Comm and other significant volunteers. Should not apply to employees, unless they perform one of the above volunteer tasks. What is policy for summer rec/programs/red sox tix and similar events.
7. Trophy Policy: Trophies/awards are provided for those teams that are not eligible for any playoff play. For baseball: scatterball, tee ball and Farm; Softball: U8 and U10.

OTHER

Consideration must be given to how the field usage is going to be monitored to ensure we are getting the appropriate fees from the leagues who have applied for and been granted permission for field use

REQUEST MEETING WITH TOWN MANAGER

Consider meeting to discuss sponsorships, beer tent at Fall Festival, playscape status, recreation status and other pertinent issues that may arise.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristin Savage, (Acting Secretary)