

Recreation Commission Meeting
July 25, 2016

Hunt Recreation Center

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Recreation Commission was held at the Hunt Recreation Center on Tuesday, July 25, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. Members present were Paul Grasso, Peter Hunter and Peter Ward. Also present were Scott Randall, Finance Committee Liaison, Ryan Kane, Recreation Director, Anna Wood, Assistant Recreation Director and Jon Straggas, Beede Center General Manager. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hunter at 8:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from June 28, 2016

- Mr. Grasso, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Ward asked if the minutes could be emailed to the commission prior to the next meeting for review.
- Mr. Hunter asked if we could capture action items in the minutes.
- Mr. Hunter motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

- Splash Pad auto turn-off still not working. The problem may not be resolved by end of summer. May add a holding tank. Splash pad will be available during Recreation office hours. The public should ask at the front desk.

Department Update

- Mr. Kane reported that the Rideout tennis and basketball courts are complete. Happy with end result. Two of the 3 tennis courts are lined for Pickleball. Pickleball is a popular senior activity.
- Issue raised of what is not allowed on the courts; skateboards, rollerblades, street hockey and bikes. Basketball courts used to teach children to ride bikes. Should we consider signs: "Tennis and Pickelball Only", "Basketball Only." Mr. Hunter asked what is done in other towns. Ms. Wood suggested "Activities as permitted by the Recreation Department." Do we need signs for Emerson?
- Skateboard Park at the high school will be inspected by Mr. Kane.
- CPA Recommendations for Emerson Playground include fencing around the playground, new shed for the pool, hcp lift for the pool, and a new splash pad. For Rideout Playground: pavilion and splash pad which are part of the master plan but not funded. Mr. Grasso asked about fencing around the play area due to issues with dogs. Dogs are not always under voice control by their owner. Mr. Kane pointed out that there are restrictions regarding fences within the playground. Mr. Randall advised that we develop a strategic plan – grouping items together such as the splash pad and pool shed. Mr. Hunter agreed that the proposal carries more weight if presented as a plan. Mr. Ward noted the September 30 application deadline and the need to create a presentation. Work with Concord on Tap to get replacement water fountains for Emerson.

Operations Report

Program Report

Anna Wood reported:

- Summer Camp is at the halfway point. 1464 kids are registered in camp, extended day and post camp for the 7 week period. 46 kids are registered for Post Camp. Preschool Camp registration is down. Will rework preschool offerings for next year. Staff numbers are down a little due to a reduction in directors and elimination of tennis staff. To date camp revenue is \$360,000. Camp scholarships are \$49,500. Mr. Hunter asked if there has been any push back on eliminating tennis. Ms. Wood said there hasn't been. Summer intern has created a parent evaluation and will be available in Google Docs this week.
- Last week the first movie night was held at Rideout. 120 attended. The next movie is August 18. Mr. Hunter expressed that it was a fun event.
- Participation in the basketball and baseball clinics were good. Mr. Kane discussed the plan to make wholesale changes in the sports camps next summer making the high school facilities a sports camp hub. New programs would include volleyball, field hockey and lacrosse. Hunt/Emerson would continue to be the day camp hub.

Beede Center Report

Jon Straggas reported:

- Aquatics programming is about level with last summer. Otters has more summer swimmers than last year. Revenue up over \$2000 from last summer.
- Fitness is 5 weeks into the 10 week summer session. Revenue is at \$14,441. Projected to net \$1931. Classes have been well attended.
- Presented an overview of membership renewal process.
- Presented new "subscription" based membership tracking system. Thanks to Mr. Randall for his help developing the spreadsheet. Mr. Randall asked if we should consider a subscription based membership renewal. Our current method of sending renewal notices annually forces members to think about renewing membership vs. having the convenience of a monthly payment option.

Marketing

Ryan Kane reported:

- The Fall/Winter Recreation Program Guide will be delivered August 22. Still considering moving delivery dates. Plans to increase program offerings. Mr. Hunter finds Zach's emails helpful.

Reports from Liaisons

Steve Ng, Select Board: Not present.

Scott Randall, Finance Committee: No report.

Peter Ward, CPC:

- Application deadline is September 30 at 4:00 pm.

Peter Hunter, Long Range Planning Committee:

- First meeting is in August. Agenda includes sorting out what the plan needs to cover and hiring a consultant. Mr. Hunter thought we should think about calibrating the Town's plan with Recreation's plan, using the strategic plan as a guide.

Old Business

Ryan Kane reported:

- Search to fill 2 Commission positions is going well. There are four candidates. Mr. Kane and Mr. Hunter have two more candidates to interview. They will then make recommendations to the town manager who will appoint individuals to the commission.

Mr. Hunter stated that the next meeting will be Tuesday, September 27 at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Hunter moved to adjourn. Mr. Grasso seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.