

Recreation Committee Meeting

Minutes

December 13, 2016

Senior Center community room

Present: Katharine Ingram, Chair, Joe Brosseau, Derek Williams, Kathy Hemmens, Ron Wiesen, Jessica Manchester

Absent: Nicole Miller

Katharine called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Monthly Financial Report: At the end of November, the Committee has \$11,713.57 remaining in its \$21,933.00 annual budget . \$6,485.27 was expended in November to support Youth Programs, leaving \$1,514.73 in that line item. No funds have yet been expended from the current year's budget to cover the Coordinator's salary as \$1,020.85 is still remaining in last year's Coordinator fund. \$64 was reimbursed to the library for purchase of books for the Halloween raffle. It appears that \$186 remains unspent in that line item. Expenditures are on track, except for an overage in the Skating Rink line. Jessica reported that she has applied for a matching grant from the Merchant's Bank to help cover expenditures for this project.

Project updates:

Skating Rink: Jessica reported that the skating rink is up and has been filled with water from a Town firetruck, but is not yet frozen enough to be skated upon. She is planning a Grand Opening shortly after the New Year and would like to combine that with a skate donation/swap. After much discussion, it was decided to plan the Grand Opening for January 8th, and steps to generate skate donations and skate sharpening will be pursued by Jessica. She will communicate progress to the Committee via email.

Website: Jessica is making good progress learning the capabilities of the web-site and has set up user accounts with the library and with GRACE. Katharine stressed she would like to have the website live by the beginning of the new year, even if the amount of information on it is limited. Kathy will re-send Jessica information about senior activities to put on the web-site.

Senior Activities: Norma Spaulding and the SASH Coordinator will be offering an 8 week "Tai Chi" class at the Senior Center beginning in January, 2017. A Senior Center Board member requested permission from high school officials to have the school host a late afternoon walking group for seniors so that they could have a safe and pleasant place to walk in the winter. However, the request was refused, citing security concerns. Katharine and Nicole will approach the school again about this issue, since it seems unreasonable to require criminal background checks of seniors wishing to walk in the school after hours.

Old Business:

Rec./Trails Committees relationship:

Eric Remick, Chair of the Trails Committee, reported to Katharine that Trails has decided to regularize their status as a Standing Sub-Committee of the Recreation Committee. After

discussion in which Rec. members proposed language to be included in the Recreation Committee Policy, the drafting of the new section of the Policy pertaining to Trails will be undertaken by Katharine and Judy Bellairs from the Trails Committee.

New Business:

Spring-fest Fun Run: At the present time, there does not appear to be an organizer for the Fun Run; Trails does not want to do nor does NEK Kids on the Move. It is definitely both a recreational and a trails event and so it does not seem right to let the event die for lack of organizers. Katharine will revisit the issue with NEK Kids on the Move and Ron will ask if any individual Trails members want to take it on. Rec. will discuss it again at our January meeting.

Mini-Grants: After considerable discussion, it was decided to continue funding the library Halloween event and the Wonder and Wisdom Senior Trips for another budget year, and then move away from providing these. Jessica argued that we should use our funds to create new projects where-ever possible rather than providing money to other organizations. Since Wonder and Wisdom is the only senior-oriented event currently sponsored by Rec., its future funding remains undecided. Kathy noted that only one-third of the participants in the trips come from Hardwick and asked that we find out what other communities are contributing. She also asked that the W&W Director be asked to do more active recruitment and advertising in Hardwick.

Green-Up day: Jessica and Ron Wiesen will meet with the new Green-Up Day Coordinator to provide additional guidance and orientation and learn how much help she will need for the actual day.

Advertisement for new Rec. Committee members: The Committee members reviewed and commented on the Ad's language. Joe will email Kathy some language for her to use in re-working the Ad so it is less formal and intimidating. It will be posted in the paper after the new year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Hemmens

January's meeting has been changed to January 17 at 6:30PM at the Senior Center.