

Recreation Committee Mins 10/30/2007

Hopkinton Recreation Committee Meeting
October 30, 2007

(These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next committee meeting)

Meeting called to order at 6:20 PM at Kimball Cabins

Members in attending: Vernon Miller, Dan Rinden, Louise Carr, Valerie Carr and Recreation Director Justin La Vigne. ~
Guests: Patrice La Vigne

Announcements:

Justin announced that the Recreation Department computer has crashed and it is very unlikely that any information can be recovered. This computer was not under a master city server.

Haunted House Wrap Up:

The Recreation Department's 3rd annual Haunted House was a complete success and Justin thanked his Recreation Committee for the support and hard work to make this a wonderful event for the Town of Hopkinton. Attendance was approximately 350-400 people.

Some discussions and suggestions were made for next year.

The issue of the fire inspectors showing up right before the event and not earlier was brought up. There was an email sent to the inspector the week before and the haunted house was scheduled to be inspected earlier that day. A call was made around 2pm to remind the fire department and they showed at 5:30pm. Next year better communication will be initiated by Justin to ensure that we are not surprised right before event.

Volunteers were just great and in plenty. Next year we need one person to take control of volunteer coordination. Girl scouts plan to participate next year and would like to make the sign again. The werewolf cabin done by the Schmidt family and friends was a wonderful job but they had too many volunteers and some of the students outside the cabin were out of control. Next year we should type a rule and suggestion sheet to hand out to volunteers. Make sure we cover the light switches in the cabins so they are not turned on by mistake. The discussion of what weekend day is better to hold the event was brought up. Having it on Saturday may draw more people, but Sunday allows us to set up on Saturday. Vernon will look into changing his control room so we do not violate fire code. Next year delegate large duties to each member of recreation committee. Woman's Club of Hopkinton did a great job and kept the front waiting area well organized and entertained everyone. They will give Justin an evaluation sheet of what they thought about the event after their monthly meeting. They look forward to participating next year. The barriers were a great idea but maybe next year we should change the layout (ie move cemetery). Can we add a 4th tour guide? Make age recommendations for day and night. Maybe offer a behind the scenes tour next year?

Existing Programs Update:

Justin updated the committee on existing programs

Tumbling Tots (ages 2-5) is a hit and the kids along with the parents/nannies are spreading the word. Classes on Thursdays at 3pm and 10am and are a drop in status costing \$3.00 per class. The instructor is a professional circus performer and she is great with the kids. The attendance rages from 3 – 10 kids per class.

Conditioning Class held on Thursdays in-between the Tot classes has been slow. It is meant for anyone wanting to better condition and tone their body. Will keep trying another couple of weeks.

Motion in Art is in the process of being developed and is taught by Sarah Greene who teaches the Tots class. It will begin in January and will be an art class that hopes to draw artist from town, high school and New England college.

Red Cross Babysitting has been scheduled for Nov 18 and Dec 2 and already has 8 people signed up.

Line dancing class has wrapped up for the year but was a hit. It was scheduled to be a 7 week course but was extended another three weeks. Next year we will have an advance and couples class.

Stained Glass Class is doing well with ten people signed up. We have a volunteer teacher and she plans to do it again next year.

Columbia Hall Update:

Justin has been working hard to get Columbia Hall used more often. The following programs are being held at Columbia Hall.

Cindy Glass Fitness 9 classes per week (year round)

Dede Russell Dance class once a week (Tuesday for 5 hours)

Stained Glass once a week (2 hours per class, 10 weeks)

Thai Chi twice a week (2 hours per class, year round)

Line Dancing (just ended)

Ballroom dancing will start in January

Justin brought up the idea of showing movies upstairs and investing in a good movie screen and projector. We already have a license to show films and the idea was brought up that maybe we should rent a projector and screen for the first movie to see what the attendance is.

New Programs:

Justin announced that the Slusser Senior Center is having it's grand opening on Saturday November 3rd and he has been working on a lot of senior programming.

Breakfast with Santa will happen on December 15 and the new price will be \$3.00 per person. Time will be decided next meeting. General discussion about what we need to do in preparation. Get tree, rocking chair, Xmas music, Santa outfit (Vernon), volunteers. We will need 4-6 people for the day. Buffet style, maybe try to get some donations of food. Valerie will coordinate crafts for kids. Put up advertisement boards in Contocook and Hopkinton.

Holiday Lights Contest, a new program will be brought to Hopkinton this year. Justin will begin to develop and will ask the recreation committee to be judges.

Ballroom Dancing a six week program will start in January at Columbia Hall. Some suggestions were to have a babysitting service during class. Maybe have a 2 hour open house before.

Ski Trip – was held in the past during school break. It was discussed that in the past the trip had low attendance and it could be cheaper to go alone. Justin will look into seeing if the need is there.

Other Ideas – Father/son/family camping trip in cabins. Holding summer camp at the cabins. Race car derby in January at Columbia Hall.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday November 27th @ 6:00 PM at Columbia Hall.

We are adjourned at 7:45 PM and we continued cleaning up the cabins.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin La Vigne

