

Hopkinton Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:43 PM at the Kimball Cabins.

Members in attendance: Jim Martin, Louise Carr, Mark Newton, Vernon Miller, Valerie Carr and Recreation Director Justin La Vigne. Guests were Patrice La Vigne and Kayla, granddaughter of Louise Carr.

Approval of 7/29/08 Recreation Committee minutes:

The minutes from 7/29/08 were approved.

Business:

Justin said we will be voting for Recreation Committee officers (Chairperson, Co-Chairperson and Secretary), but he would like to wait to do this when all the committee members are present. Someone can nominate another person or volunteer themselves. According to the bi-laws, the committee is supposed to choose officers each year.

Justin updated the committee about the town calendar. Right now, the calendar functions as a universal meeting calendar. But the Selectmen are going to recommend it become a complete online calendar for closings, meetings, events, etc. Selectman Jim O. is looking into how it will work – if it will be for all town organizations or just town offices.

Justin reviewed the Columbia Hall situation. Justin went to the BOS with a money-saving proposal which involved the Boys and Girls Club renting out CH during the week. In this situation, the Rec Dept. would still be in charge of the building and would have first priority, but the club's rental fees and other rentals would cover 75 percent of the operational costs. The BOS was happy about the possible rental, but is still waiting to consider the fate of the building based on the structural engineer report, which will be discussed at a public meeting on Aug. 27 at 1:30pm. Justin has already seen the report and it says the pitched roof is in poor condition, noting that some beams need replacing.

Update on Past Programs:

Summer Camp – It just ended and Justin just started plugging numbers, but preliminary results show there were 215 kids who participated, which is the same as last year. The revenue was approximately \$18K. Transportation changes totaled \$7K. Justin paid for 1 counselor from his revolving fund (\$2400) and camp expenses totaled \$6500. The profit was approximately \$4K. Again, all of this is preliminary and Justin will come up with a better spreadsheet. Justin thinks he should be able to pay for more counselors out of next year's budget as planned. Justin sent out a 2-pg survey to all parents and is hoping to get back at least 50 percent of those.

Pond – The pond closed Aug. 23 and more than 150 kids took swim lessons, up from last year. Justin commented that he had a great staff and is hoping most of them will return next year. Unfortunately there was one act of vandalism near the end of the season. The kiosk was destroyed. He plans to look into a better surveillance system. On the subject of vandalism, 2 kayaks were stolen from Kimball Lake. Justin said they are locked, but the kayaks were cut to take them. Justin said he plans to mark them better in the future, as camp used them a lot this year and plans to next year.

Ongoing/Upcoming Programs:

Movie in the Park – Houston Fields This event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6 and based on the committee votes, *Muppet Movie* will be shown. Justin said he plans to start

the movie at sunset, which will be at 7:30pm. Again, the Rec Committee will sell concessions (maybe even hot chocolate since it will cooler). Justin said he will need parking volunteers again starting at 6:30pm. Mark asked about having a fire pit since it may be cool. Justin said he has used 55-gallon drums in the past, but he is not sure about doing that on the fields. He will look into it. Justin also noted that the screen company gave a discount because of the problem with the movie color at the last event.

Stained Glass Class – Columbia Hall Eight-week class taught by same person as last year to begin Sept. 10

Ballroom Dancing – Columbia Hall Six-week class taught by Let's Dance Studio instructors to begin Sept. 24 and run through Oct. 29.

Scrapbooking Nights – Columbia Hall Free for beginners or experts. There are both evening and daytime dates scheduled in September and October.

Tumbling Tots – Program will restart in September when circus performer instructor finishes tour. Will continue to take place in Columbia Hall.

Soccer League – The outdoor league is still going on at Houston Fields on Sundays at 5pm with varying participation. In October, Justin will sponsor an indoor team through Fieldhouse Sports, Games played on weeknights.

Slusser Senior Center Activities – The seniors are hosting an indoor bazaar sale Oct. 18 to raise money to help them buy something for the building. They are looking for donated items they can sell.

Haunted House – The committee met at 6pm prior to the regular Rec Committee meeting about the event. The event is scheduled for Oct. 26 from 6:30-9pm and there will be a kids' portion during the day. Need to secure act for that (Judy Pancos? Or other storyteller). The idea is to rely on less volunteers and try to use more electronic effects, pulley, bazooka air guns, fake aliens. However, there is still a need for volunteers to build props (spaceships for alien theme, 2x4 stick figures). There is also a need for 50 4x8 sheets of plywood to build a barrier. The committee walked around the cabins and plans to change the route. The next Haunted House meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 6pm at Kimball Cabins when all volunteers should be present. Justin said he has been talking to the Interact Club who want to do something as a fundraiser. And he has a detailed list of previous volunteers that would come back. Justin also needs ask the town about using power at the old Sandy Haino building.

Other Business:

Jessica wanted to talk about the "Free Play at Columbia Hall," but since she was not there for the meeting, Justin said he was going to table the discussion. Plus, this is contingent on the CH decision.

Justin noted that the new meeting time will be at 6:30pm from now on. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 30 at Kimball Cabins.

We are adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin La Vigne