

Hopkinton Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM at the Kimball Cabins.

Members in attendance: Louise Carr, Mark Newton, Vernon Miller, Valerie Carr, Jessica Shimen and Recreation Director Justin La Vigne. The guest attendee was Patrice La Vigne.

Approval of 9/30/08 Recreation Committee minutes:

The minutes from 9/30/08 were approved.

Business:

Justin said he still wants to hold off on voting for the Recreation Committee officers (Chairperson, Co-Chairperson and Secretary) until all the committee members are present at a meeting. The next meeting is Nov. 25, but since it is close to a holiday week, he will check and see how many members will be able to make it.

Update on Past/Ongoing/Upcoming Programs:

Casino Trip - Mohegan Sun (CT) There are still a few spots left. Ticket is \$38/person and includes transportation, food voucher and other extras. This is a joint trip with Bow Recreation. He will continue to do more trips with Bow and other smaller Rec Depts.

Indoor Soccer – Fieldhouse Sports (Bow) – The team is set and filled by a good range of people in town. Two games have been played (one win, one loss) and the season continues through January.

Scrapbooking Nights - Grange Free for beginners or experts. Justin just talked to Liz to add more dates (Fri., Oct. 14).

Slusser Senior Center 1-Year Anniversary Party – Sat., Nov. 8 from 1-4pm. Slusser Senior Center Committee is taking care of the arrangements. There will be a band and it is casual. Louise asked Justin to make sure they are inviting the building committee. Justin said he will check with them.

Holiday Lights Contest - Same event as last year (12 households participated), but this year, may add another day of judging because last year it took 3 hours to judge the 12 houses (Wed., Dec. 10 and Thurs. Dec 11 if necessary). The top 3 houses will get recognition for holiday decorating. Justin will start advertising for this event soon. People suggested that maybe next year they should do a Halloween house decorating contest because there are many houses in town that get into the spirit.

Breakfast with Santa – Sat. Dec 13. Vernon volunteered to be Santa again. Justin is planning to have the event at the Senior Center, but will look into other possibilities. Again the money charged for breakfast will go to Operation Christmas (Human Services). Mark suggested that maybe we could add a “gift card drop” as an extra way to donate to less fortunate families.

Santa Calling Program – Thurs., Dec. 18. This is a new event to be introduced this year. Justin will be talking to the principal at Harold Martin about it. Basically, the program entails sending forms home to parents to fill out about the child, what he/she wants for Christmas and any other pertinent information. Then on Dec. 18, volunteers will gather at the Senior Center (where there are 4 phone lines) and make phone calls to the children. The men will act as Santa and the women will act as Mrs. Claus and elves. Short conversations pretending Santa is in the North Pole and knows what each child wants for Christmas. Justin said he did it Virginia through his old Rec Dept and kids loved it.

Walt Disney on Ice – Manchester Justin asked if he should buy discount tickets for this, like he did last year for Stars on Ice. The event will take place Jan. 24 and Jan. 25. He will resell the discounted tickets at the same price. The Rec Committee agreed they thought it was a good idea. Justin said there are 3 tiers of tickets, so he will probably get the middle-priced seats.

Haunted House Wrap Up – Once again the event was a success with more than 300 visitors, but once again the committee agreed it's just a lot of work for weeks and weeks and involves a lot of micromanaging. They discussed possibilities to scale it down for next year. October is a difficult month to get volunteers, but also there are many other fall festivals to go to, including one in town through Harold Martin School and even Maple Street School. There may be a possibility to team up with them and have the Recreation Dept offer something smaller (maze, pumpkin carving, crafts, hot cider). Everyone agreed that the storyteller was really good this year and we should bring her back. The volunteers were good this year again, although there were still problems with dependability. The committee planned a clean-up day at the cabins for Sun., Nov. 9 at 11am. Vernon will send out a message about that and a quick thank you. Justin will do more formal thank yous.

Other Business:

Jessica said she came across information on a woman who runs cooking classes for children either out of her home in Dunbarton, or at a certain location. The cost would be \$25-30/kid (ages 5 to 12 years). It may make a good program for before the holiday so kids can make gifts for their families. Or just something to do during the winter. Everyone agreed it would be a good program, but Justin worried about where he could do it. Maybe Camp Methodias or the American Legion. Jessica will forward him the information and he will look into it.

Mark also said he can offer cooking classes for the seniors, since it is something he does through his work. Justin said that is something the seniors have been looking for, so they will talk further about the possibility.

Mark asked about the possibility of getting discounted Celtics tickets. Justin said he figured it would be too expensive and they may be sold out, but will look into it. Other suggested the Bruins also. Justin said he will definitely be looking into a trip to see Red Sox games in the spring. Other possibilities was a trip to the Currier Museum in Manchester.

Justin noted that the next meeting time will be at 6:30pm on Nov. 25 at the Senior Center.

We are adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin La Vigne