

Hopkinton Recreation committee
Public Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2012

The meeting was brought to order at 6:40 pm.

Present: Mark N., Ed Kerr, Jim M., Vern M., Louise C., & Jessica, Rec. Director

Absent: Jim L. & Steve C.

The July meeting minutes were approved.

Recreation Department Updates/Wrap Ups:

Beach has been officially closed with another successful season. It was reported that the pond did not have to close any days this summer due to high counts of bacteria. Each day of swim lessons had at least 4 to 8 children per class. There had been several requests to have late afternoon/early evening swim lesson classes for the summer of 2013. This would require at least the minimum number of sign ups in order for this program to run to cover the costs of the swimming instructor.

The summer camp program was full of fun events and was enjoyed by all who participated. This year the program was extended with additional "themed" camp weeks and had an attendance of roughly 30 children. Since this was a successful first year, other "themed" summer camp programs will also take place next year. Several requests were made to have a LEGO camp week and Jessica is currently looking into two different LEGO programs.

Old Business:

Jim M. has been working on having a sport's themed movie and guest speaker for a future event. One idea was to have Ken Burns come to discuss one of his documentaries. This is still a work in progress with hopes of having a program sometime next fall.

Mark N. had contacted a sign company that he uses at his employment to discuss options for signage that would be portable for our recreation department events to better advertise who is hosting the event. The creation of a logo was part of this discussion and Mark brought a few pages of other recreational type logos for us to look at to generate some ideas for a Hopkinton Recreation Department logo. Several ideas on how we want to go about this were discussed and Jessica will report back to us at the next meeting.

Since there is discussion of creating a logo the shirt reorder has been put on hold until the logo has been developed.

Ed K. gave us an update on the latest skate park committee meeting. Gregg from the department of public works was able to make the meeting to go over the work that they had completed on the ramps over the course of the summer. Gregg also stated that roots from the large trees growing by the stake park is causing significant damage to the area and is making arrangements to remove the trees. Due to the ongoing repairs to the ramps and the expense of replacing the skatelite ramp material it was recommended to remove some of the ramps. A company with skate park expertise will be asked to review the current conditions and make a recommendation as to how to move forward. Jessica has been looking into offering safety programs that would be fee based to help generate revenues toward park repairs and will again this year submit a line item in the budget for the recreational facility fund that has typically been cut the last few years. There were only a few minor issues that the police needed to be contacted about, there is still an ongoing noise complaint by an abutter and possible solutions were discussed to try to remedy the situation.

New Business:

Louise was appointed as secretary and will take the minutes of the meetings.

Brian Morgan, senior at Hopkinton High School, submitted a letter requesting to become a member on the recreation committee. Brian has assisted the committee over the last year on many of our activities

and has been a dependable volunteer. The committee has discussed having a high school student on the committee for several years and Louise suggested that we amend the bylaws to create a 1-year membership to allow for student representation. The amendment reads: to create a high school representative membership position that will serve for a term of 1 year. All committee members voted in favor of this amendment.

Louise made a motion to have Brian Morgan fill the high school representative position contingent upon the Selectmen's approval. All committee members voted in favor of this amendment.

The Halloween Holler will be Oct. 27th and Jessica is still trying to coordinate the time with HMS PTA. If the new PTA board has not been established then we will ask that the school announce there will be a parade starting at noon that will end at Kimball Cabins for the Halloween Holler.

Ed & Jessica informed us that the community center committee had filed their report to the Selectmen which stated that although about half of the 200 survey responses that the committee received had indicated some space is needed for activities that is not presently being met adequately, it did not rise to the level of needing a community center building. The committee researched area churches, civic group buildings and schools for usable space availability and if a fee is charged, insurance needed and other particulars which will be posted on the Town's website.

Other Business:

Dates to remember:

Senior yard sale Sept. 29th 8:00 a.m.

Fall cleanup at the cabins Sept. 29th 10:00 a.m.

2013 Lacrosse Preseason FYI Meeting tentatively scheduled for Sept. 26th

Upcoming Fall Programs:

Intro to Caring for and Riding Horses

Adult Yoga

Junior Theater run by the local Active Jr. theater group. Program runs for 35 hours and will conclude with a Dec. 15th performance of "Dear Santa, I Can Explain" that was written by the Active Jr. group. The cost will be \$195 for early registration then \$215 for any remaining openings.

KJ Art returns for Children art classes followed by Adult art classes

Mini Kickers Pee-Wee Soccer will return this fall. The spring classes was a success having 20-25 sign ups which was good for the first time trying this program. Lenny the Lion mascot will be at the Aug. 29th registration day to greet the children.

Healthy cooking classes are being scheduled for kids and for seniors "cooking for one"

The Funnelator Event will be held Feb. 9th pending enough snow. This event will be a winter carnival that will include sledding, snowman building, skating, cross-country skiing and other winter fun events. Last year's event had to be cancelled due to the lack of snow.

Movie in the park BBQ sold about 20 dinners with \$60 donated to the recreation dept. The committee will discuss at a later date if another BBQ will be scheduled.

Mark had recently been to an event sponsored by Concord Parks & Recreation that had a trailer that opened up into a stage. Mark is going to contact them to inquire about the cost to purchase and if they loan or rent it out to other recreation departments. This seemed like it might work better for the 4th of July performers if it isn't cost prohibitive.

Mark discussed with the committee that he would like to see the recreation department provide more programs that are free or low cost for families. Several people have expressed to him that families with several children are finding it difficult to pay for activities their children would like to do. In order to provide this service the recreation department would have to find sponsors to cover program costs. The committee will help to develop a list of potential sponsors and to generate a sponsorship letter to outline what sponsors will receive for their donation.

Tabled Items:

Comcast Cares 2013 – Jim M. brought this program to the committee’s attention several months ago. Comcast provides volunteers and financial support to a community that has been selected from proposals for improvement projects. Comcast will pay out \$25 pp for each volunteer regardless of his or her age and will also cover the cost for supplies. The committee at one time discussed upgrades and repairs that need to be done at the cabins. Jessica suggested upgrading the bathrooms and perhaps building a pavilion to attract more people to use the cabins as they are being under utilized. The boat launch could also be improved upon. A proposal needs to be developed by the end of the year as Comcast selects the communities prior to Volunteer Day in April. Vern wanted to make sure there aren’t other projects in the community that would benefit from Comcast’s program before we lock into a proposal on the cabins. In order to get this project underway a point person needs to be delegated to look into the particulars of the program then develop a plan to include a design for the project, list of materials and the costs, advocate for the project to get volunteers, seek out qualified individuals who can manage small groups of volunteers to work on various aspects of the project and a clerk of the works person to oversee the whole thing.

The next recreation committee meeting will be September 25th, 6:30 p.m. at the Slusser Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.