

Hopkinton Recreation Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2013

Present: Ed K., Jessica B., Jim L., Mark N., Vern M., Shelley C.

Absent: Jane W., Louise C., Jim M., Cait M.

Meeting called to order at 6:47 pm.

September 24, 2013 Meeting Minutes approved.

Recreation Department Updates:

The skate park renovation is moving along slowly. Most of the ramps are out. They are waiting for multiple people to assist, so the park is still currently closed. There is no date set yet for re-opening.

The Kimball Cabin Committee is assembled. Their first tour has been scheduled. There may be more to report at our next meeting.

Old Business:

Halloween Holler: The Halloween Holler was successful. People liked the venue, using the school property, playground and inside warming area.

One suggestion for next year's Smore pit is to use wood for toasting marshmallows, along with the charcoal, due to questions about length of time to cook and enough heat.

Other feedback from the community was that food costs were still seen as too high. Members recall the previous club used a donation bucket in past and did well. The Rec Committee recognizes the former club offered this as a service, not a fundraiser.

Another idea is to create stanchions to guide children while entering certain Halloween activities. The ribbon and chairs were confusing and a tripping hazard. Mark will look online and share his recommendations with Jessica.

New Software: Look at www.hopkintonrec.com to view. Jessica will still list all events on the town website. When someone clicks on the event, it will forward to the Recreation webpage. It will look like typical shopping online, with people adding activities/purchases to their cart. People can sign up for multiple events and activities at once. Jessica is posting a few things now and will add more in November. Jessica is encouraging Christmas event registrations online. People can create their account now. The system will accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. The cost of using credit cards is built into the price of the activities and events.

We are contracted annually for \$4300 per year for software. No charge for November - December 2013. Contracts will run January - December in future. The software company has been very helpful to date with questions and assistance putting things on website.

If a family does not have a computer, they can still come in and Jessica will help them set up and account and process their purchases.

Monarchs: Jessica is still working on Monarch Tickets. She has the day and booking of seats, but does not have tickets yet.

Pumpkin Carving: We sold 13 pumpkins with over 30 people attending. Over 60 people attended the movie. Jessica would like to do this activity again.

The Recreation Department's Open House for the Senior Slusser Center went well, with over 20 new people attending. They had lots of volunteers. The Open House included displays and demonstrations of all the senior center programs/activities. Some of these new visitors joined classes this week.

Laser Tag: The Laser Tag was all set, but had to be cancelled due to only 3 registrations. A minimum of 15 was required to proceed. In reviewing activities, Jessica noted the age groups most active in the Recreation Committee's activities are the young families. She may change the event to be 9+ year olds, instead of 13+ year olds. Jessica's intern will create a survey for the teens for activities of interest and reasonable costs.

Black History Month: We have the movie "42", scheduled for February 1st. Mark is waiting for an update from the school.

New Business:

The Ice Skating Rink will be near the dugout, by George's park; Blood Field, this year and has electricity. They need 2-3 people to assist the Highway or Grounds keeping crew to lay out the pool. They will ask for these volunteers when a date is set, probably a weekday before 3pm. They are anticipating within the first two weeks of November. Ed will verify date with Greg and report back to Rec Committee. The Fire Department's Explorers may be an option to help. Suggestions made to have Smores and cocoa at the rink in future years and have the Funnelator there in the future.

Kimball Cabin Lake Ice is the preferred place for pickup hockey games. People have a concern the skating rink will become the hockey location. Rec Committee ideas on how to address these concerns included posting signs with hours for free skate and hours for hockey, no hockey allowed, or designation of 1-2 specific nights for pickup hockey at skating rink. Hockey is still preferred at the Lake to prevent damage to the skate rink. It is unknown who will clean off Kimball Lake at this time.

New Programs: There will be a Holiday Movie Marathon Sunday December 1st, starting at 2pm. Jessica will need teen and adult assistance, manning the doors, signing children in and out, supervision of viewers, kitchen help.

December Holiday Events:

Gingerbread Works - December 7th

Breakfast with Santa - December 14th

Lights Contest - December 16th, Judging at Dusk

Santa Calls - Tuesday Evening, December 17th, Ed at 5, Vern at 6:30, Mark will try.

NH Lightening Softball Tourn. July 25-27, Rec. Com. will run the concessions as an annual fundraiser

The next scheduled meeting is November 26th at 6:30 pm at the Slusser Senior Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.