

Hopkinton Recreation Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2013

Present: Ed K., Mark N., Vern M., Louise C., Jessica B., Rec. Director
Absent: Jim M., Jim L.
Guest: Shelly Crown

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.
July meeting minutes approved as amended.

Recreation Department Updates:

Mark N. has been talking to Shelly Crown for several months about joining the recreation committee and Shelly has decided that she would like to join our group. Jessica will submit the application for the BOS approval. Welcome aboard Shelly!

The Recreation Dept. will be purchasing new software that will make it much easier to enter registration data, will allow for online registrations and credit card payments. The cost is \$4,000 a year with \$800 as a budget line item and the remaining \$3,200 a year will be made up through programming fees.

Movie in the Park will be moved inside the senior center for the winter months and Jessica would like to have a couple of movies with dates to come. The Rec. Dept. had purchased a blanket policy that covers most movies and music as long as they are shown in the senior center. Jessica would like to have a Christmas movie marathon on Dec. 1st to give parents the opportunity to go Christmas shopping while their children are being entertained. There will be 3 movies shown which may be "Home Alone", "Arthur's Christmas", & "Christmas Story". Mark suggested that in Feb. we may want to show the movie "42" the Jackie Roberts story in honor of Black history month.

Spirit Skate Park Update: Jessica meet with the BOS along with Josh Heino, Chris Saunders and Sean Kelly to discuss a phased out plan to return the skate park back to full operation. Phase 1 will include spending \$5,500 from the recreation maintenance fund to fix the 4 main ramps, smaller ramps will be dismantled and all usable parts will be kept. The goal is to have the 4 main ramps completed by October for the 10th year anniversary. Estimates are being completed for rebuilding and designing future ramps as money is raised to complete them.

Summer Camp Update: The camp was in the black by \$3,000 this year due to an increase in participation and the hiring of new camp staff resulting in lower salary expenses. Camp scholarships were down significantly this year that we think was attributed to the fact that past recipients has aged out of the summer camp. A few were hired as CIT and were able to attend camp at a reduced rate.

Camp Scholarship Update: \$1,000 was received toward camp scholarships from the letter writing campaign that was done in April. Jessica & Marilyn, Human Services Director, meet to discuss changes for next year that will simplify the bookkeeping of scholarship requests and the processing of payment. The recreation committee will continue to write letters to community organizations and letters to the editors requesting scholarship funds, the checks will be processed through the Human Services Dept. and all scholarship requests will be approved through Marilyn. The Recreation Committee will continue to sponsor 1 week of camp for any child needing financial assistance. Any other fundraising done by the committee for scholarship funds can now be used toward all rec. programs.

Mark has requested that a new accounting procedure be developed so we will be able to see more clearly how much it costs per child to attend summer camp. It is recognized that each week varies so an exact quote would be difficult but a better estimate perhaps could be obtained if the

expenses were broken down a little differently. Jessica has agreed to try to work on this so next year we will have a better understanding where we are at during the summer sessions.

The Mini Kickers Soccer program is now accepting registrations. This program is designed to teach children between 2 to 6 years of age the fundamentals of soccer.

Jessica was not able to schedule the children's art program due to the lack of instructors at Kimball Jenkins. Mark is going to look into a program his children were involved in to see if that instructor may be available.

The Halloween Holler event will take place at the Harold Martin School this year due to the cabins being condemned. It will be the Saturday before Halloween, Oct. 26th, noon to 3:00 pm. The PTA will be providing the food again this year. Jessica will be contacting Bill Carozza to request the use of the multipurpose room in case of inclement weather. Vern has offered his fire pit to be used to cook smores but will need help loading the brick up on a trailer or bed of a truck. A fire permit will need to be obtained and permission from the school to have the pit outside the multipurpose room. We will again have Jim Lewis take charge of the fire since he is also a volunteer on the fire dept.

At the last meeting Jim M. asked Jessica to look into purchasing blocks of Monarch tickets and what perks they have to offer. A block of 100 tickets can be purchased with the option of returning any unsold tickets at no cost. It was suggested that the best nights that have multiple children related activities would be opening night or the New Year's Eve game. The first 25 - 30 kids would be selected to take part in the high 5 tunnel. Jessica was going to see if there was any interest from the community whether they would bring their family to a New Year's Eve game.

Ed has requested that Jessica send Byron a thank you note for assisting the committee with the repairs on the turkey. Louise also asked if a thank you note was ever sent to Johnny Herrick for his donation of wood chips for the playground. There seemed to be some confusion as to whether the donation of wood chips had been approved by the BOS and if the chips had been replaced yet. During the rainy weather earlier this spring it was not possible to remove and replace the chips at that time. Jessica will look into this and follow up as needed.

Old Business:

Jessica & Louise gave the committee an update resulting from the Kimball Cabin tour and the subsequent BOS meeting. All of the cabins have been condemned and posted no trespassing. The main cabin steps and porch have been removed and all the locks have been changed. The BOS will be forming a committee who will work to develop a master plan of what the best use of the area would be and discuss the potential of the cabins or if some or all need to be torn down. Neal will be working with Jessica to form the charge for the committee and the Board is reaching out to the community to see who may be interested in being on the committee. Jessica & Louise generated an informal list of names and the skills that they would bring to a committee meeting. The Board has asked that the committee be formed by Oct. 15th, that at least 6 months will be given to formulate a master plan and that an update be given prior to March town meeting.

New Business:

Mark gave the committee a quick overview of the National Night Out event that he and his family attended in Concord. There were hundreds of people who attended, everything was sold for \$1 including all food items, and there were contests going on such as hot dog eating, singing contest and a variety of demonstrations. Many local businesses were involved. Mark explained he saw a stage that was on wheels and closed down as a trailer when not in use. We would like to follow up with the Concord Recreation Director to see what the cost was to purchase the traveling stage, as it could be an asset for the rec. dept.

Jessica discussed with the Fire & Police Chiefs the possibility of having a laser tag tournament at the Kimball Lake property. Both Chiefs thought it would be a fun event and did not foresee any

problems with the location. Jessica has been in contact with a company named Green Light who will supply the equipment and referees. There will be a team of 5 competing against another team of 5 and this will continue through a process of elimination until there is a winning team. This will be held one evening in Oct. with a definite date to be announced soon.

Other Business:

Louise wanted to discuss the openings still left on the Recreation Committee and whether some members are still interested on staying on the committee, as they have not been able to attend meetings or participate in events we hold. Jessica will follow up with these members to see what their current status is regarding committee involvement. Once it has been determined how many vacate positions are on the committee there will be a push to recruit new members and bring the committee back up to full status. Two high school students have expressed interest for being liaisons from the high school. They have volunteered numerous times to assist with various activities and the committee welcomes their involvement.

The next scheduled meeting will be Sept. 24th and the committee will host a potluck supper as we have done for past meetings. Each committee member will bring an item to share.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.