

Hopkinton Senior Recreation Committee

Minutes of Meeting of December 15, 2008

Members Present: Marilyn Ceriello Bresaw, Janet Krzyzaniak, Lillian Landry, Don Lane, Justin LaVigne, Allita Paine, Gloria Symonds, Joanne Woodward

Members Absent: George Langwasser

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Chairperson Janet Krzyzaniak.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Senior Recreation Committee (SRC) meeting of October 20, 2008 were approved as corrected, by unanimous vote. The minutes of the SRC meeting of November 17, 2008 were also approved by unanimous vote. It was noted that minutes are not accepted into the town record until they are approved by the originating committee but that the SRC should continue to submit its draft minutes within 5 days of its meetings to be available to the public.

Business: Volunteer of the Year: Justin LaVigne reported that he has not yet moved forward to implement the proposal he made last month to recognize a Volunteer of the Year. Recognition will include the Volunteer's name engraved on a plaque to be hung at the Senior Center and publicity to make the community aware of the extent of volunteerism at the Senior Center. Justin does not feel comfortable coming up with a list of nominees without input from others. After discussion, it was decided that each SRC member will come up with the names of deserving volunteers and bring those to the next meeting. The hours put in by each volunteer are readily available as this data is figured and sent, as required, to RSVP (a state entity that reports to the Governor's Office). At next month's SRC meeting, the SRC will formalize the nomination list, decide on the voting process, and implement the process by the end of January for presentation of the award in February.

Barn Clean-Up: Don Lane reported that he has talked to several men including Mr. Houston about cleaning up the barn; they will get it done in January.

Rental of Senior Center: Janet Krzyzaniak informed the SRC that Justin LaVigne has suggested the establishment of a trust fund with any rental fees to offset the cost of maintenance of the building. Don Lane said that the town is supposed to maintain the building but if we rent it out, we should put the proceeds into a maintenance fund. Justin LaVigne will bring this idea to the meeting of the Board of Selectmen on January 5, 2009. Members of the SRC are encouraged to attend the January 5th meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Justin LaVigne has submitted a report of the usage of the Slusser Senior Center over its first year of operation to the Board of Selectmen; he will discuss it at tonight's meeting. It shows that 9,404 seniors came to activities at the Center, an average of 38.1 per day (see addendum to these minutes). Thanks go to Janet Krzyzaniak for crunching numbers, using the daily sign-in sheets. This report does not include attendance of various community groups who have held meetings at the Senior Center, the most recent request being for a meeting of the Little Nature Museum in February.

Newsletter: Justin has exploration of newsletter options on hold until January. He had found a company that publishes newsletters free of charge by obtaining advertisements from local businesses and will look into this further. It was discussed that having a newsletter would not require higher level approval.

Service Corps: Don Lane presented the concept of the Service Corps at the senior center lunch on December 3rd. Response was positive and two people volunteered immediately. One was Jack Ward who agreed to do accounting for the Antiquarian Society four hours a month. Don has talked with Lillian Landry about recruiting volunteers. He has written a description of the program and forwarded it to Justin LaVigne and Janet Krzyzaniak for review. SRC members received copies of this write-up. A change was made in the statement "The Corps will be managed by a sub-committee of the Senior Council." It will now read "The Corps will be managed by the Senior Recreation Committee." Don has also developed two forms, one for potential volunteers describing skills they have to share and the other for an individual/group needing specific skills. After an article about the Service Corps is published, Don is willing to talk to groups such as the PTA to explain the Corps and encourage requests.

A discussion ensued about whether background checks on volunteers would be necessary and, if so, how the cost would be handled. It was decided that it would be up to the person/group needing the services to contact references/do background checks. The SRC would be making matches of skills available to skills needed. There is no money passing hands so this takes some of the risk away. Don Lane is more concerned about getting valuable seniors to come in to the Center and to share their skills with the community.

In regard to informing the Board of Selectmen about this initiative, it was decided to ask George Langwasser if he would be interested in making this presentation. If he is not interested, Justin will write a letter to the Board of Selectmen about this exciting new program. The newspaper article would be sent in for publication the following week.

Program Discussion: Upcoming events: Dec. 19: Holiday Party with Woody Roberts

Dec. 20: Breakfast with Santa and
Gingerbread House Making Workshop

Other Business: Lillian Landry asked about getting the cable in downstairs. Justin said that TDS was to do it and that it had just been put into the budget. Lillian thought that John Boatwright was to do it free of charge so Don Lane suggested asking Mr. Boatwright.

Lillian Landry asked about the possibility of getting a generator for the Senior Center, considering that there is no emergency shelter in Contoocook. She mentioned that Park Avenue Apartments has a generator that helped keep residents warm during the power outage. Justin LaVigne said it would be cost prohibitive, estimating that it would cost \$25,000-\$50,000 for the size needed. Don Lane said that the town had looked into a generator for the high school and found that it would cost \$100,000 (with a grant available, \$75,000 would have been federal funds and \$25,000 town funds, but the School Board turned it down). In addition, the schools are not wired to be ready to accept generators available through FEMA. The firehouse did get a generator through a grant for \$12,000.

Next Meeting of the Senior Recreation Committee: Monday, January 19, 2009 at 2:30 pm at the Slusser Senior Center. *[Note: Meeting date was later changed because of Martin Luther King Day and the corrected date of 1/26/09 was published in the January Senior Activities Calendar.]*

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Minutes approved 1/23/09

/AHP

December 8, 2008

Hopkinton Board of Selectmen,

The following document outlines the usage of the Slusser Senior Center over its first year of operation. This document is supported by our daily sign sheets, as well as our program sign-up sheets. The below grid starts with the opening on November 3, 2007 and continues through October 31, 2008. These estimates cover the daily attendance of seniors to the building, volunteers for the front desk and programs, cooking groups for our Wednesday lunch and Human Services (which started full operations in the building in June).

Not included in this report are the following: Groups that are not required to sign in because of confidentiality (Grief Support, VNA health clinics, Fuel assistance), people who stop in to specifically see the Recreation Director or the Human Services Director, people who drop off food for donations and people who work in the food pantry.

Also not included are the numerous groups in town that use the building for meetings. These groups include: Hopkinton Rotary, Hopkinton Woman's Club, Hopkinton-Webster Land Fill Committee, Recycling Committee, Selectmen Advisory Committee, Recreation Committee, Senior Recreation Committee, Greener Hopkinton, Open Space Committee, Planning Board and others.

Month	Nov-07	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	TOTAL
Attendance	853	509	779	576	859	698	624	785	806	893	892	1130	9404
Days in month	18	14	21	18	23	22	21	21	23	21	21	23	246
Aver. Daily	47.4	36.4	37.1	32	37.3	31.7	29.7	37.4	35	42.5	42.5	49.1	38.1

Thank you

Justin La Vigne
Recreation Director