

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: December 6, 2023

Meeting Location: Rec Building

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Members Present: Chairman George Blaisdell, Chris Longchamps, Heidi Dyer, Darren Hudgins, ex officio

Also Present: Becky Francis, Recreation Director

Members Not Present: Ben Sharpe

Meeting was called to order by Blaisdell at 6:45pm.

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as amended from October 18, 2023.

Motion By: Hudgins

Seconded By: Longchamps

Discussion: Change date from September 20, 2023 to October 18, 2023.

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion of new business begins.

Review of playground equipment for Miller Field and Ed Garvey

Francis met with Game Time playground equipment company to fix the spinner at Miller Field, but unfortunately the backhoe equipment Francis originally chose became largely over budget when factoring in the \$2,500 installation cost, in addition to the cost of the playground equipment, bringing the total cost to over \$4,000, for which only \$1,000 was budgeted. Francis and members agreed to no longer pursue installation of the backhoe equipment and to keep looking for something else. Francis also said that starting in 2024 there will be a new law mandating that 50% of playground equipment must have ADA accessible pathways. Francis and members discussed leveling the Rec Center playground and the need to add \$1,000 back into the budget for playground equipment replacement. Francis explained that she removed the money from that line item, assuming it would be replaced this year and not needed for next year. Hudgins explained that it should be left every year, and will discuss it at Deliberative Session. Longchamps suggested doing a playground layout which is a long-term design plan, and bringing in equipment once piece at a time. Members discussed buying a trailer to store and move items.

End of the year goals for Recreation

Long Term Goals

Francis explained that she hopes to make a 5- and 10-year plan for the Recreation Department moving forward, but hopes to focus on the rest of this year for this meeting. Francis hopes to send out an end-of-the-year survey, and Longchamps agreed to the importance of a 5-year plan, especially for improvements. Members also discussed starting a Friends of Recreation non-profit.

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54 ***Repairs***

55 Dyer asked about the bulkhead door repairs and the status of the floor in the shed. Francis had not
56 gotten a quote for those yet. Members discussed emptying the shed to see it's condition and what
57 additional repairs may be needed. Francis also explained that the Department of Environmental
58 Services is requiring a tap be moved for water testing, which needs to be completed by the 29th, and
59 Allied Clearwater plumbers are scheduled to install it on the 27th.

60
61 **Baseball Agreement**

62 Members discussed having a written agreement between Recreation and baseball, and who's
63 responsibility shed maintenance is. Blaisdell said Rec's responsibility should be the outside, such as
64 the roof, and baseball's responsibility should be the inside, such as the freezer. Members agreed to
65 discuss it with Sharpe when he is in attendance. Francis said she can type something up and have it
66 ready to discuss at the next meeting.

67
68
69 ***Discussion of old business begins.***

70
71
72 **Programming Update**

73
74 ***Holiday Week***

75 Francis said the ornament-making event, the paint night event, and wreath-making event all did
76 well and hope to do them again next year.

77
78 ***Festival of Trees***

79 Over 500 people in attendance, and raised over \$1,000 for the food pantry. Francis explained that
80 the event is too large to host it at the Rec Center next year, but hope to do it at the Town Hall.

81
82 ***Breakers Bus Trip***

83 Trip to the Breakers Mansion was a very long day, but went very well and has heard positive
84 feedback.

85
86 ***Possible Family Bus Trip***

87 Dyer asked about a possible family bus trip to an escape room, roller skating rink, or any activity
88 suitable for families with older children. Members discussed locations such as Boda Borg and Level
89 99.

90
91 ***Upcoming Tree Burning Event***

92 Francis said she will reach out to Conservation to ask if they would like to be a part of the Christmas
93 tree burning event in January.

94
95 ***Afterschool Program***

96 Longchamps asked about the status of the afterschool program, and Francis said she hopes to start
97 it up again and will reach out to counselors. Dyer asked if there were families interested, and
98 suggested doing themed days for an added draw, such as Lego Club and Art Club.

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105 ***New Year's Eve Bash***
106 Francis explained that they are having a magician doing a show at Town Hall.
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110 **Non-public discussion under RSA 91-A:3 (a) employee matters**
111 Hudgins made a motion to go into nonpublic discussion under RSA 91-A:3 (a) employee matters.
112 **Motion By:** Hudgins
113 **Seconded By:** Blaisdell
114 **Roll Call:** Hudgins – yes; Blaisdell – yes; Dyer – yes; Longchamps - yes
115

116 Hudgins made a motion to seal the minutes.
117 **Motion By:** Hudgins
118 **Seconded By:** Blaisdell
119 **In Favor:** All
120 **Motion passes unanimously.**
121

122 Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.
123 **Motion By:** Blaisdell
124 **Seconded By:** Hudgins
125 **In Favor:** All
126 **Motion passes unanimously.**
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129 Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.
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131 Next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2024.
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137 **Submitted By:**
138
139 *Jessica Manning*
140 Jessica Manning
141 Recording Secretary