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2 MINUTES
3 RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
4 SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
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DRAFT

8 The meeting was called to order at 6:40 by the chairman. Present were: George
9 Blaisdell, Chairman; Members: John Donahue and Darren Hudgins, ex officio. Also
10 present Deb Brown, Rec. Director

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12 Motion to approve the minutes of 06-10-20 John Donahue. Second: Darren Hudgins.
13 VOTE: Unanimous
14

15 Mrs. Brown gave an update on programming with Yoga classes resuming with a new
16 instructor. There is also a Boot Camp offering for men and women and an after-school
17 program for kids in Grades 1-5. It will be staffed by summer program personnel.
18

19 There has been discussion between the recreation department and town hall on how to
20 best get the buildings opened back up to public use such as rentals and what protocols
21 will be needed and developed. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Gulla are each making documents
22 for facilities that they oversee for rentals and meetings etc. Participants will be limited
23 and mask protocol will need to be followed. Facility users will still set up themselves
24 however they will now leave tables and chairs set up so that they can be disinfected and
25 then put away.
26

27 There was an update to the summer programming and the beach. Mrs. Brown reported
28 that her staff worked exceptionally hard both in the summer program and at the beach
29 with each situation having its own challenges. She said she would not have been able to
30 pull off having a summer program had it not been for the experienced staff she feels
31 fortunate to have. There were no incidents of Covid for which she is very thankful. It was
32 a huge concern the entire summer. The parents were great and understood the times
33 that an early pick-up or cancellation was needed due to inclement weather and lack of
34 indoor space sufficient to keep kids distanced for the duration of a program day. She
35 feels fortunate to have been able to work with First Student Transportation to run 'shuttles'
36 from the rec building to the town beach as the rec property gets extremely hot, there's no
37 shade and having the beach available was very fortunate. She noted that towns around
38 Sandown were not able to have summer programs including Chester, Atkinson and
39 Hampstead. Plaistow had half the number of participants as Sandown. We do need to
40 keep the conversation going about the need for permanent outdoor structure as there
41 most likely will not be Covid funds available next year to rent the large tent that was
42 available for this past summer at a cost of nearly \$6,000.
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44 The beach pass was instituted this past summer and for the most part, worked well. There
45 were some complaints that it was needed at all however, there were many more residents
46 who were pleased that the beach pass is now required. With area beaches closed or

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state beaches by reservation only, there were times that people were showing up in Sandown that would have, in some instances, been difficult to deal with had the passes and ordinance not been in effect. Mrs. Brown noted that the lifeguard line is overspent. This year's lifeguards were all high school students and available to work until Labor Day. This has not been the case in the past few years. With the new beach pass program in place it did not appear to be feasible to say, 'we've come this far and now it's a free-for-all' for the next couple of weeks. Mrs. Brown ran it by Mr. Hudgins who expressed acknowledgement for needing to keep the lifeguards until Labor Day.

A brief discussion took place regarding the upcoming preparation for the FY 2021 budget. Mrs. Brown will soon begin working on that. Paperwork needs to be given to the Board of Selectmen by Nov. 9th and the Commission is scheduled to meet with the BOS on Nov. 17th followed by meeting with the budget committee on December 2nd.

There are 2 people interested in the open Commission positions and members instructed Mrs. Brown to get their names in front of the Board of Selectmen for appointment consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Brown
Filling in for a recording secretary