

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Meeting Date: 5/18/2022

Meeting Location: Rec Building

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

Also Present: Becky Thomson, Rec Director

Members Not Present: John Donahue

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Blaisdell at 6:30pm.

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from 5/4/22.

Motion By: Hudgins

Seconded By: Dyer

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion of new business begins.

Summer Carnival Rental Reviews

Members discussed rental items from Grand Rental in Plaistow. Thompson was hoping to rent an inflatable obstacle course, inflatable water slide, cotton candy machine, and a dunk tank. Members gave consensus that whatever Thompson wants to rent is fine with them, as long as it is \$1,000 or less, which it is. Thompson plans to reserve items ahead of time to ensure they have them when needed.

Town Wide Yard Sale

Thompson suggested offering residents who do not have a large enough yard to rent spaces for the yard sale and bring items to the rec fields and/or parking lot, with optional table set up for a small fee. She also suggested having food trucks, and having Rec Commission sell hot dogs and popcorn. Thompson wants to get people aware of the date now, so they can save their items, and is considering hosting another town wide yard sale in the spring. Members discussed having the sign-ups and information on RecDesk.

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Plans for Fall Programming

Thompson wanted to discuss fall programs to stay ahead of schedule. She said she wants to start an adult recreational sports league. She also plans to host a Kids' Craft Club on Mondays from 10am-12pm. Thompson spoke with the people at the library and said they are happy to help host a movie night at the rec field and use their movie rental license. The Library Director wants Rec to buy their own movie screen. Members discussed hosting a movie night once a month in the summer.

Thompson suggested having people dressed as movie characters to pair with the movie. Members also discussed the possibility of hosting a teen escape room, Halloween murder mystery, teddy bear picnic for young children, pumpkin festival, haunted house, AARP elderly safe driving course, women's self-defense class, possible Halloween decoration contest, and teaming up with the Old Home Day Committee for this year's event. Thompson and members also discussed the possibility of an after-school program.

Discussion of business from previous meetings begins.

Summer Camp Update

Field Trips

Thompson gave updates on Summer Rec Program field trips. She said they will not be visiting Water Country this year because Mike & Casey said the park is too small and the kids get bored too quickly. Thompson planned field trips to Canobie Lake Park, Hilltop Fun Center, Pawtuckaway State Park, Launch Entertainment Park, bowling and to the movies.

Bus Prices

Thompson updated members that prices for bus rentals for field trips have more than tripled from last year, which equals double the summer rec transportation budget. Hudgins suggested calling the bus company to get more clarification on why the cost is so much higher. Members discussed tactics to figure out a plan if prices do not come down, and discussed prices of field trips to cover costs. Thompson will contact bus company and see what she can do. Thompson also suggested eliminating less popular field trips and instead have entertainment come to them, such as a magician.

Trainings & Orientations

Thompson said she is waiting to hear from Police Chief Gordon to talk to counselors during staff training and will schedule CPR training at the same time. She is also planning the CIT orientation and planning a "first-time camper" parent information day to become familiar with program.

Possible Summer Rec Scholarship

Dyer suggested offering a scholarship for financial aid to assist in paying for summer rec for a child or children who qualify. Blaisdell suggested speaking with Lynne about qualifying families. Members discussed possibly needing a non-profit to offer a scholarship, and suggested the option of a "Friends of Rec" non-profit to oversee the scholarship fund. Thompson plans to reach out to Lynne.

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103 **Seely Beach Update**

104 Thompson said the beach is cleaned up, but the buoys are not out yet. She spoke with Officer Buco,
105 who helped with buoys last year, and he said that some of them were broken. Blaisdell said there
106 should be buoys downstairs in the Rec Building. Thompson said there is erosion on the edge of the
107 beach, but once summer camp starts, she plans to have kids help fill it in. Dyer asked who will be
108 enforcing beach passes if there are no lifeguards. Members discussed who enforces that, and
109 Blaisdell said he would ask Lynne.
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112 Next meeting is scheduled for 6/1/22.
113 Members agreed to meet once a month in June and July.
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115 Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm.

116 **Motion By:** Blaisdell

117 **Seconded By:** Hudgins

118 **In Favor:** All

119 **Motion passes unanimously.**
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124 **Submitted By:**
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129 Jessica Manning
130 Recording Secretary