

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: December 14, 2022

Meeting Location: Rec Building

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

Also Present: Becky Thompson, Rec Director

Members Not Present: Ben Sharpe

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

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from November 2, 2022.

Motion By: Hudgins

Seconded By: Longchamps

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion of new business begins.

Review of holiday programing (Toy Swap, Senior gifts, and Tree Lighting)

Upcoming Holiday Events

Thompson updated that Phone Calls from Santa is happening this Saturday, with 4 families signed up so far. They also have 3 sign-ups for the Christmas Light Contest, but hope to get more.

Members discussed low sign-ups being caused by high electric bill and discussed advertising on Facebook page, channel 17, and papers at the library, but it hadn't been posted in the newspaper. Members discussed being featured in local newspapers.

Toy Swap

Thompson said the event unfortunately didn't go too well, as there were not many people, but the event still managed to raise \$148 for the Giving Tree Project, and feels the issue was the event was held too late in the day, and hopes to host it earlier next year, along with advertise more.

Thompson shared that leftover toys will be donated, and members discussed possibly of hosting it at the town hall next year. Thompson said the money has been given to Arlene, and plans to remove leftover toys before upcoming weekend building rental.

Senior Gifts

Thompson updated that gifts are all done and delivered, and everything was under the budgeted \$480, and they were very grateful.

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53
54 ***Tree Lighting***

55 Thompson said the event was fantastic, and tons of people attended, and they had lots of great
56 feedback. Blaisdell suggested that Thompson have someone else assisting kids with Santa, so that
57 she can be free to run the event. Thompson felt the choir did very well, and members discussed a
58 better location for them for next year. Members discussed payment for Santa for attending, and
59 agreed to gift Santa a gift card to either Hannaford or Market Basket (Santa's choice), since
60 Thompson explained she cannot use the credit card without an invoice.

61
62 ***Zorvino's Senior Luncheon***

63 Thompson said it went well, and they have received good feedback, although people typically hang
64 out after lunch but they left soon after because there was no live music. Thompson expressed that
65 she would like live music next year. Thompson and members discussed advertisement for the
66 event.

67
68 ***Turkey Hunt***

69 The event went very well, and Thompson said the first family found all the clues in 20 minutes.
70 Thompson said they received good feedback and can reuse the turkey figures next year.

71
72 ***Possible Sasquatch Event with Conservation***

73 Members discussed taking part in the Sasquatch Scavenger Hunt in conjunction with Conservation,
74 who had previously put on the event. Hudgins said he will discuss with Conservation members.

75
76
77 **Review of January Programming**

78 Thompson updated that she will be taking time off at the end of the month, and shared that there is
79 a full line-up of programming, and that senior exercise, children's karate, ballroom dancing, yoga
80 class, and rentals are all happening in January. Thompson also discussed programming that is still
81 being planned and/or considered, such as a snowman building contest, sledding day possibly
82 partnered with another town, and a possible New Year's Eve magic show. Members discussed
83 details of the magic show, and the possibility of a super bowl pool and parent's night out.
84 Thompson and members also discussed summer movie night changes, such as requiring sign-ups.

85
86
87 **Discuss End of Holiday programming ideas (Tree burning, Ice Rink)**

88
89 ***Christmas Tree Burning Event***

90 Thompson said she spoke with Fire Chief Devine, and he is on board with the event, but there must
91 be snow on the ground, otherwise they will need a permit. Thompson shared that they will be
92 working together with the Sandown Fire Department to make money for them. Members discussed
93 residents dropping off trees, and the possibility of picking up trees for residents. Hudgins suggested
94 accepting donations rather than a set price. Members discussed when to schedule the event, and
95 agreed on mid-January. Members discussed ways of lighting the fire, and the location.

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104 ***Ice Rink***

105 Members discussed making their own ice rink vs. purchasing an ice rink kit, and appropriate size
106 and price. Longchamps suggested reaching out to Home Depot, as they sometimes donate to
107 certain community projects. Thompson said she will reach out to an ice rink company. Thompson
108 suggested having "skate at your own risk" signs, and hosting a skating rink opening event. Dyer
109 asked who will shovel and maintain the rink after snow storms, and Thompson said she will speak
110 with Primex.

111
112 **Discussion of end of the year budget**

113 Thompson explained that there was some money left over in the budget for this year, and hopes to
114 get approval to purchase items. Thompson shared that she wants a metal cabinet for afterschool
115 program, to keep games and other items out of her office, and would greatly benefit from having an
116 off-trail wagon to move items off-site, such as at the town beach. Thompson shared that she also
117 hopes to stock up on toilet paper, hand soap, and other similar items, purchase updated first aid
118 kits, and hopes to buy a new speaker. Members discussed money left in specific budgets, and gave
119 consensus.

120
121 **Request Forms**

122 Members signed requests for January conference, invoice for senior gifts, and discussed mowing
123 contract for fields.

124
125 **Rental Policy Discussion**

126 Members and Thompson discussed whether town employees should receive free or discounted
127 rates for renting the Rec Building for personal reasons. Hudgins suggested holding a check as a
128 refundable deposit, and Blaisdell suggested employees paying 50% of rental fee. Dyer suggested
129 every organization using the space should have a deposit in case they cancel, and fill out a contract
130 to have on file. Members discussed how this affects reoccurring contracts, for use of the building
131 frequently, and discussed insurance and liability for rentals and groups.

132
133 Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.

134 ***Motion By:*** Blaisdell

135 ***Seconded By:*** Longchamps

136 ***In Favor:*** All

137 ***Motion passes unanimously.***

138
139 Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

140
141 Next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2023.

142
143 **Submitted By:**

144
145 ***Jessica Manning***

146 Jessica Manning

147 Recording Secretary