

# RECREATION COMMISSION

## Town of Sandown, NH

### **Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Date:** February 1, 2023

**Meeting Location:** Rec Building

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

**Also Present:** Becky Thompson, Rec Director

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

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from December 14, 2022.

**Motion By:** Hudgins

**Seconded By:** Dyer

**In Favor:** All

**Motion passes unanimously.**

***Discussion of new business begins.***

### **Review of Summer Coordinator Payroll, Afterschool Payroll**

#### ***Afterschool Payroll & Update***

Thompson explained that payroll comes out of the town's general fund, so this is signing off on paying the town back, for \$2,330. Thompson said numbers are good, and kids are happy. All registrations are through RecDesk, and Thompson explained payment schedules. Members discussed the issue with the bus company regarding a field trip, and Thompson said she is writing a letter to the supervisor to make sure it won't happen again.

#### ***Summer Coordinator Payroll***

Thompson explained that Gayle said in past years they reimbursed the general fund for summer camp, and the only year that didn't happen was during Covid, and that it is the Commission's decision whether to reimburse the general fund for the Coordinator payroll, which is \$12,863. Members discussed budgets of previous years, and the issues with the current budget. Members suggested having Gayle come in and help with reorganizing the budget, and Dyer reminded that accounting can be done in RecDesk. Thompson explained the ongoing issue with their credit card company, Clover Connect, and that they will no longer be using them.

***Members signed reimbursements for payroll.***

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53  
54 **Review of February Programming**

55  
56 ***Advertising***

57 Thompson shared that lots of programming has done very well, and many class sizes have  
58 increased. Dyer showed Atkinson Rec News clip from the newspaper, and members and Thompson  
59 discussed doing that for Sandown. Dyer and Thompson discussed speaking to local newspapers,  
60 and Thompson said she plans to advertise upcoming programming in the newspaper.

61  
62 ***Senior Classes***

63 Thompson shared that she met with Medicare group for seniors, Humana, at a recent conference,  
64 and they plan to being hosting free classes for seniors, such as classes on stretching grocery  
65 budgets, how to safely fall, caregiver classes, and a technology class. Thompson spoke about the  
66 recent conference, and the importance of inclusive programming. Thompson also has been in  
67 contact with an Aerobic Drumming instructor, who teaches classes for seniors, but hopes to make it  
68 inclusive for other ages.

69  
70 ***Animal Encounter***

71 Thompson hopes to do animal encounter day, and wants to have a “Grandparents Day” for it, to  
72 include grandparents in the fun. Members discussed charging for the event vs. donation-only, and  
73 whether to offer lunch. Hudgins suggested doing donation-based, as they have the possibility of  
74 making more money.

75  
76 ***CPR Course***

77 Longchamps asked about CPR course, and members discussed opening it to the public. Thompson  
78 said she will speak to fire department to see if they would be willing to do it.

79  
80 ***Bus Trips***

81 Thompson said they have had two bus trips so far, both partnered with Atkinson and Plaistow, and  
82 both were super successful, each time having a waitlist. In March, they will be going to Encore  
83 Casino, and Danville asked to be a part of it. They will be taking two busses, and Thompson  
84 explained that each town takes a turn paying for busses. If busses can’t be filled, another town will  
85 fill those empty spots. Members discussed family bus trips in the summer, and Sharpe suggested  
86 offering a monthly bus to Boston.

87  
88 ***Bingo***

89 Longchamps spoke about residents being interested in bingo, but that they can’t host a bingo event  
90 unless the profits are donated to a charitable organization, and suggested donating profits to the  
91 food pantry. Dyer suggested looking into how Atkinson is able to host their bingo events.

92  
93 ***Trivia Nights***

94 Members discussed hosting trivia nights, and discussed the possibility of allowing alcohol. Hudgins  
95 suggested partnering with Historical Society because they have a liquor license, which would allow  
96 them to sell alcohol. Blaisdell suggested BYOB, and selling hot dogs and popcorn. Thompson said  
97 they could try it once and see how it goes. Dyer suggested posting a community survey to get ideas.  
98 Thompson said she is thinking of the end of March.

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103  
104 ***Ladies' Craft Night***

105 Thompson said a resident asked if she could host a craft night for a ladies' night out. The event will  
106 cost \$10, and will be on February 24, 2023.

107  
108 **Discussion of Summer Camp (starting dates, counselors, lifeguards, and cost of**  
109 **camp)**

110  
111 ***Starting Dates***

112 Thompson explained the schedule for the start of Summer Rec, including:

113 *June 19 – June 23:* Staff Training

114 *June 26:* First Day of Camp

115 *August 18:* Tentative Last Day of Camp

116  
117 Thompson explained that she hopes to extend the summer program by two weeks, and members  
118 discussed the issue of losing college staff as September gets closer. Members discussed the  
119 possibilities of partnering with Sandlot. Thompson explained that she offers one week off, unpaid,  
120 for counselors. Thompson said she hopes to be present for field trips, and will fill in while a  
121 counselor takes time off to get married.

122  
123 ***Counselors***

124 Thompson and members discussed the issue of background checks and drug testing for all hired  
125 counselors over 18 years old. Thompson said she did not do this last year, and she was unaware.  
126 Hudgins said that the issue slipped by the Commission, as well. Members gave consensus to do  
127 background checks for this year, but not for drug testing. Members agreed drug testing is  
128 unnecessary without probable cause.

129 Thompson said she has advertised for counselors and life guards, and wants to advertise on  
130 Indeed.com, since it is free and college students may be looking for jobs there. Thompson updated  
131 that she has only heard of counselors returning, meaning she has not heard that any are leaving,  
132 and that she already has two more applications for this summer. Thompson shared that she hopes  
133 to hire an Inclusion Counselor, who will work with kids who need extra help, and plans to reach out  
134 to the Recreation Management Program at UNH.

135  
136 ***Lifeguards***

137 Thompson and members discussed lifeguard training reimbursement. Thompson suggested having  
138 trainees pay for training up front, and if they pass training, Rec Department will reimburse half the  
139 cost, and if lifeguards work the entire season, Rec Department will pay the second half, giving  
140 incentive for lifeguards to work for the whole summer. Thompson said if lifeguards choose to leave  
141 their job before the end of the season, then they will not receive the second half of their  
142 reimbursement for training. Hudgins suggested earning their money back incrementally, such as  
143 accruing a certain amount of reimbursement per week. Members discussed if this would make  
144 hiring lifeguards more difficult, and discussed having lifeguards sign a contract that states they  
145 agree to work for 8 weeks. Sharpe suggested offering a bonus at the end of 8 weeks, adding  
146 incentive to stay. Dyer also suggested buying lifeguards lunch every Friday. Thompson and  
147 members discussed allowing counselors to work additional hours on weekends, by becoming  
148 lifeguards, and Thompson hopes they get counselors to do this.

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***Cost***

Thompson and members discussed the cost of camp, and whether the price should stay the same or increase, and discussed reorganizing and consolidating the budgets to allow for ease of understanding the profits. Members discussed costs rising for next year, such as busses, and gave consensus to look into the budget more closely before deciding on price.

**Possible Paddle Boards**

Dyer suggested buying paddle boards for the town beach, only to be used while lifeguards are on duty. Members and Thompson discussed details, such as the use of life jackets, and where the paddle boards would be allowed. Members also discussed having a security camera and/or trail camera installed.

**Budget**

Thompson and members discussed issues with budget(s), and members gave consensus to allow Gayle to help. Thompson feels that the entire budget needs to be redone, and Blaisdell suggested reaching out to other local coordinators to see how their budgets are set up.

Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.

***Motion By:*** Blaisdell

***Seconded By:*** Hudgins

***In Favor:*** All

***Motion passes unanimously.***

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2023.

**Submitted By:**

*Jessica Manning*

Jessica Manning

Recording Secretary