

Sandown Recreation Commission  
February 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman John Donahue at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Jessica Scarlet, John Donahue, Terry Treanor, and Veronica Utman. Also present was Deb Brown, Parks and Recreation Director. George Blaisdell was absent.

The minutes of the December 7, 2016, meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by John Donahue.

Mr. Treanor seconded the motion.

During discussion it was suggested that the sentence on Lines 51 and 52 (regarding a potential "land swap" proposal) be deleted.

Ms. Utman made a motion to accept the minutes, as amended.

Mr. Treanor seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Brown brought up the subject of playground equipment. The equipment is usually broken down into two groups: ages 2-5, and 5-12. Because we have been serving the age group from 5-12, that is the playground equipment we have previously purchased. But we are now seeing parents with younger children coming to watch games, etc. (and having nothing for these younger children to play on). we have purchased a swing set for the younger age group. She has talked to a supplier regarding additional small pieces for younger (age 2-12) children. This supplier gave her a play cube (for ages 2-12). This has an original price of \$2548, but was left over from a display. The only charge will be for installation. Ms. Brown would like to complete this playground. The fence has been moved; the ground has been reworked; it is ready to have equipment installed. She has a list of potential small pieces awaiting quotes, and hopes to have a recommendation ready for the next meeting. The newly purchased equipment is scheduled to be installed in May, and Ms. Brown would like to have any other new equipment installed at the same time (one trip/travel time=smaller installation fee).

One of the attendees at the New England Parks and Recreation Seminar lives in Sandown. (He is the assistant recreation director in Exeter and is also a certified playground inspector.) He also happened to rent our building late last year. He has offered to meet with Ms. Brown and make suggestions regarding the playground.

The Planning Board has requested that the Recreation Commission attend a Planning Board meeting (March 7 ?). It is Ms. Brown's understanding that they would like to review and refine the requirement for developers to either provide recreational facilities in their development or make a contribution to the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Brown is looking for input for possible facilities improvements. One suggestion has been to turn the old skate park into a tennis court. She has talked to a member of the USTA (U.S. Tennis Assoc.). There is a grant process for tennis. There is money available for improvements.

They will match funds for such things as: painting permanent tennis lines on existing courts and paved areas; basic facility improvements including fixed court amenities like backboards and fencing and wind screens...up to 50% of the total project, with a \$4000 max. Also, resurfacing of EXISTING 36 x 60 and 78' courts (\$10,000 max). Because we don't have an actual court there yet, she wants to explore this more fully. Mr. Genualdo has taken some measurements of the area, and made a preliminary sketch.

She has also been talking with Atkinson and Plaistow Recreation about the possibility of doing a tennis program for kids – at the high school during the summer when the courts are just sitting there.

Ms. Brown is looking into expanding the activities, including a bowling program.

The soccer program for toddlers and pre-school was cancelled because there were not enough registrations.

This week there will be a Chinese New Year program, with Atkinson and Plaistow at the Atkinson Community Center. There will be Chinese dancers performing and a Tai-Chi demonstration. About 80 have signed up.

There will be a baby-sitting course in April.

Ms. Brown is trying to schedule an AARP safe driving course.

Ms. Brown will be talking to John Goldman about doing a CPR course.

The Red Sox tickets were so expensive that when the bus rental was added, it was decided to forego the activity this year. Fisher Cats tickets will be investigated, and perhaps combined with a school bus to make this more affordable.

There will be a February school vacation program (two days).

Ms. Brown noted that private rentals of the recreation building are up. Nearly every weekend in February, March, and April is scheduled.

The Yoga class starts a new session next week. The attendees are loving the class.

Ms. Brown needs to get to the concession stand (the road is not plowed in the winter). The alarm company called to report a low battery signal (it was changed in October). Mr. Donahue offered to drive her there.

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Ms. Brown also said there had been a problem with the Card Access System earlier this month. She could not gain access, and had to have an “authorized dealer” work on it. After an hour, the problem was fixed; they thought it had been a problem between the card access system and Windows 10 (sometimes when Windows 10 updates, it causes a “glitch” in the software). There is now an upgrade to the card access where you don’t have to go through the computer.

The new maintenance person came to Ms. Brown and said he would like to paint the basement floor while she was attending the Recreation conference. He also asked if she would like him to organize the stored boxes while he was there (as he needed to move them to paint anyway). He and the other custodian came in while she was gone and did an amazing job of painting and organizing. The Commission agreed that she should give them each a gift card.

Ms. Brown said that the Lions Club is having a public Corned Beef dinner on March 18 at the Recreation Center.

Ms. Brown reminded the Commission that the Sandown Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, February 4, starting at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Utman  
Recording Secretary