

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: February 15, 2023

Meeting Location: Rec Building

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

Also Present: Becky Thompson, Rec Director; Gayle Hamel, Finance Director

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

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from February 1, 2023.

Motion By: Hudgins

Seconded By: Longchamps

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion of new business begins.

Revolving Account & Budget Discussion

Gayle Hamel, Finance Director, joined the meeting to assist in understanding the Recreation Revolving Account and budget set-up. Hamel brought literature explaining accounts and budgets, and shared that she also found it very confusing at first. Blaisdell agreed, and said the Summer Rec budget is very confusing. Gayle explained how the Revolving Account works, and Longchamps said there is still a disconnect because Thompson's salary is not on that budget, since it comes out of the town's account and not rec's account. Longchamps added that there would be no recreation programs if it weren't for Thompson's position, so he feels it continues to be confusing.

Members discussed the topic of revenue regarding the Revolving Account, and the possibility of combining all budgets. Hamel said combining budgets is the decision of the Rec Commission and Selectmen. Thompson added that combining all budgets may not work, since they have 2 different accounts, and Thompson and members discussed moving Summer Rec Coordinator payroll to a different budget. Longchamps said they are looking to figure out expenses for Summer Rec Program so they know what to charge for this year. Sharpe said they could easily show profits to Budget Committee if it was displayed more clearly.

Blaisdell asked about profits from previous years, and how they can redo those budgets to better understand the past few years. Hamel said she can give them Year to Date numbers to give them an idea, and Blaisdell said he wants to see if programs are consistently paying for themselves, even though Covid years may make that inaccurate. Hamel said the budgets can be relatively easily combined, and will be much easier to understand once that is done, and is always happy to help.

Gayle Hamel left meeting.

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Members signed forms for the following:

Encore Bus Trip

Thompson explained that the bus company wants them to sign a contract.

Security Alarm

Alarm monitoring costs for the year and maintenance, totaling \$1,088.24.

Certificate for Week of Camp

Thompson explained that she went to a Sandown PTA meeting to ensure they don't overlap programming. She said that they do Bingo for Books, but it is different than her idea, so they are still doing it. The prize for the auction/raffle is week of camp, and Thompson said she will write a certificate, and Commission gave consensus to allow.

Review of February and March Programming

Grandparents Day Animal Encounter

Thompson explained that she had to close sign-ups for the grandparent's day event because they reach 50 people attending. She also shared that she decided to serve popcorn. Blaisdell suggested hosting another one, and Thompson said she might schedule another during April vacation week.

Conservation Hike & Lunch

Thompson said she talked to Conservation and they asked to partner with Rec on the Monday of February vacation week for a lunch and hike at Great Rock, as well as play camp games, and Library is coming and reading a book. This is a free event. Members discussed doing the Sasquatch hunt again, and working together with Conservation.

Ladies' Night Out

Thompson shared that Ladies' Night Out is almost booked, with only 3 more seats available, and everyone is excited.

Bingo

Thompson said she hasn't spoken to Atkinson yet, as their director was out on medical leave. She is hoping to hear from her in the next few days.

Trivia

Thompson explained that "pop culture" themed trivia was the winning theme. Thompson said she hasn't looked into the issue of alcohol yet, but members agreed that they must make the event 21 years old or over allowed only.

Family Bus Trips

Thompson updated that she has not heard back regarding family bus trips to Fisher Cats Games, but has reached out to the New England Aquarium, a whale watching company, and the Stone Zoo. She said the whale watch is too expensive, but the aquarium and zoo are more reasonably priced.

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103
104 ***Possible Camp-Out***

105 Thompson shared she is thinking of doing a camp-out on the field with the kids, but was unsure if
106 this was allowed. Hudgins said scouts will get permission and can do it. Thompson said she will
107 look into it.

108
109 ***Possible Farmer's Market***

110 Thompson shared she would like to host a farmer's market in Sandown, and was thinking possibly
111 3pm-6pm at the Rec Building. Longchamps asked about vendors, and Thompson said she spoke to
112 a local farmer but they have to speak with Primex regarding it, and discussed the issue of getting
113 enough vendors. Sharpe suggested reaching out to other towns and seeing if vendors want to do
114 another market on a different night.

115
116 ***Wilderness First Aid Class***

117 Dyer suggested that Thompson ask Conservation about partnering for a wilderness first aid class,
118 as they are relatively inexpensive and can use their facility.

119
120 ***Fishing Derby***

121 Thompson shared that she hopes to have a tent set up at this year's fishing derby in April. Hudgins
122 reminded that they don't know if they will have access to the pond this year.

123
124 ***Possible Airshow Bus Trips***

125 Sharpe explained that there are two big airshows happening this year. One is in Mansfield, MA, and
126 one is at Pease Airforce Base in September. Thompson said she will look into them.

127
128
129 **Summer Rec Update**

130
131 ***Hiring***

132 Blaisdell asked about hiring, and Thompson said they are still short, with the ideal number of
133 counselors being 13-14, but they currently have 10, so they are not far off her goal.

134
135 ***T-Shirts***

136 Dyer asked about T-shirt companies for this summer's shirts, and Thompson said she has a contact
137 from another town. Members discussed options for T-shirt companies.

138
139 ***Transportation & Field Trips***

140 Dyer asked about transportation for this summer, and Thompson said she hasn't contacted them
141 yet but plans to, as most places aren't open yet. Thompson said they hope to go to the Stone Zoo,
142 and Dyer suggested roller skating in Tyngsboro or ice skating. Thompson said they also hope to go
143 to Mel's Park.

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Rec Facility Improvements

Miller Field Trees

Members discussed taking down trees at Miller Field, and suggested doing it themselves. Members agreed that they hope to do it soon, and Blaisdell said they can find someone to stump it and clean it after.

Pavilion

Members discussed donations, and the possibility of using grants. Sharpe suggested building the pavilion in phases, and do some each year. Members discussed options for building the pavilion, and said they will speak to Lynne regarding donations.

Miller Field Equipment Replacement

Sharpe suggested doing another Miller Field equipment replacement this year. Thompson said she has priced out portable gaga ball pits, which can be put away, or set up at events like Old Home Day. Sharpe said they can make them out of plywood, and Hudgins said he can build one in under an hour. Members laughed.

Rec Building Curb Appeal

Thompson suggested installing raised garden beds, and Sharpe suggested using a greenhouse. Blaisdell said it looks overgrown and asked if garden club could do something to make it look better. Thompson said lots of wildlife use the area, and doesn't want to drive animals away. Thompson suggested raised planters would look good and would be fairly easy, since the ground is all rock.

Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.

Motion By: Blaisdell

Seconded By: Longchamps

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2023.

Submitted By:

Jessica Manning

Jessica Manning
Recording Secretary