

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: May 3, 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 6:25pm.

Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from April 19, 2023.

Motion By: Hudgins

Seconded By: Longchamps

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion of new business begins.

Payment/Refund Requests

Members signed requests for the following:

\$750 payroll tax for town of Sandown for afterschool program

\$1280 for yoga classes

\$1500 to baseball for gravel and stone dust

Recreation Updates

PTA Luau

Thompson said the PTA sent a thank-you card for donating a free week of camp for their June 2nd luau. Thompson said she will be attending the event and will be promoting Rec.

Fishing Derby Raffle Winner

Thompson said the child who won the free week of camp is not old enough to redeem it, but will be old enough next year. The winner's parents hope to redeem it then, and Thompson said the child's parents seem fine with waiting a year.

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E. coli Testing

Thompson shared that the NH Department of Environmental Services wants to restart testing Seely Beach for E. coli, on top of their regular cyanobacteria testing, which will cost an additional \$180 for the season. Members discussed the importance of regular E. coli testing, and why they stopped testing in 2019. Thompson said she suspects they stopped testing for Covid-related reasons, and Dyer suggested to see if they can test as a panel of multiple tests, rather than individual tests. Thompson said this will be tested one per month, and they are now testing every other week.

Revolving Account Quarterly Review

Thompson and members discussed Revolving Account quarterly review from the Finance Director, including after school program, payroll, and expenses. Longchamps stated that the afterschool program appears to be very profitable. Dyer and Thompson discussed payroll for the month of February, and members discussed the big increase in rentals.

Summer Camp Update

Field Trips

Thompson shared that the field trips are scheduled and has quotes from bus company. Members discussed varying prices, which Thompson explained is a difference of distance driven and time required. Thompson shared that she plans to add more kids once she hires more counselors, and currently has a waitlist. Longchamps shared that he was concerned with turning away kids.

MESH Counselor

Thompson shared the job description for the Inclusion Counselor position and explained the need to hire one, costs associated with the position, and the process of the school district possibly reimbursing them. Members and Thompson discussed parental involvement, safety and special needs, and agreed that the counselor should hold a training for all other counselors. Members shared concerns about the possibility of getting more campers with different needs because of the trained counselor, and Thompson stated she wants to help those who need it, and agreed to training for other counselors. Dyer suggested choosing a different name, such as an Adaptive Recreational Counselor, and Thompson said the purpose is to go beyond campers with disabilities, such as a camper having a rough time at home. Members and Thompson discussed counselor role on field trips, and members agreed that the position must have defined specific boundaries. Thompson shared that other camps have this position, and it is often called a MESH Counselor (Mental, Emotional, Social Health) and members preferred that title. Members gave consensus to change the position name to "MESH Counselor," and gave consensus to post the job and move pay up to \$15 per hour. Thompson said she will update the job description to include that it is preferred that the counselor has experience in this field, including possible internships or as a one-on-one aid in a school.

T-Shirts

Thompson shared that shirts are being printed, and she will get the receipt for members.

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103
104 **Other Programming**

105
106 ***Summer Play Group***

107 Thompson hopes to host a summer play group for toddlers including water play, sprinkler, bubbles,
108 and more, every other Tuesday, as a free event.

109
110 ***Movie Nights***

111 Thompson updated about movie nights, including that they must have sign-ups, and will not run the
112 event if less than 3 families sign up. These will be hosted on Friday evenings.

113
114 ***Teen Trip***

115 Dyer requested that Thompson organize a trip for teens, possibly ages 14-17, and members
116 discussed locations such as the beach, laser tag, or escape rooms. Thompson discussed the issue of
117 chaperones, and Dyer suggested making it a parent & teen trip. Thompson liked the idea of having
118 parents be involved.

119
120 ***Farmers Market***

121 Thompson sent out paperwork to vendors who have reached out, and plans to start June 27.

122
123
124 **Trivia Night Update**

125 Thompson shared that it is currently the Rec Team against another team, and that they can style the
126 game similar to Family Feud, and hopes to do trivia from multiple categories, such as the 80's,
127 music, Disney, and TV. Thompson plans to serve Mexican food since its hosted on Cinco de Mayo,
128 and is making a trophy for the winning team.

129
130
131 ***Discussion of old business begins.***

132
133
134 **Field Maintenance**

135 Blaisdell asked Thompson if she had heard back from Artie yet, and Thompson said she had not.
136 Members and Thompson discussed specific improvements and needs based on lots of recent rain.

137
138 **Grandparents' Day Donations**

139 Dyer asked how much was made in donations for the Animal Encounter event, and Thompson said
140 that the money is currently stuck in the jar, and she will update members as soon as she can
141 physically get the money out of the jar.

142
143 **Yard Sale Update**

144 Thompson and members discussed town wide yard sale, and Thompson shared that she hopes to
145 host it earlier this year.

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154 **Non-public discussion under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) employee matters**
155 Hudgins made a motion to go into non-public_discussion under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) employee matters.
156 **Motion By:** Hudgins
157 **Seconded By:** Blaisdell
158 **Roll Call:** Blaisdell – yes; Hudgins – yes; Dyer – yes; Longchamps – yes; Sharpe - yes
159
160 Blaisdell made a motion to seal the minutes.
161 **Motion By:** Blaisdell
162 **Seconded By:** Hudgins
163 **In Favor:** All
164 **Motion passes unanimously.**
165
166 Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn
167 **Motion By:** Blaisdell
168 **Seconded By:** Hudgins
169 **In Favor:** All
170 **Motion passes unanimously.**
171
172 Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
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174 Next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2023.
175
176
177
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179
180
181
182 **Submitted By:**
183
184 *Jessica Manning*
185
186 Jessica Manning
187 Recording Secretary