

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: September 6, 2023

Meeting Location: Rec Building

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

Also Present: Becky Thompson, Rec Director

Members Not Present: Ben Sharpe; Heidi Dyer

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

Review of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from June 7, 2023.

Motion By: Hudgins

Seconded By: Longchamps

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Blaisdell made a motion to accept minutes as written from August 16, 2023.

Motion By: Blaisdell

Seconded By: Longchamps

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion of new business begins.

Oktoberfest

Paula Gulla & Jim Gulla joined the meeting to represent the Oktoberfest event, and asked if Rec wants to be represented at the event. Paula said they are open to doing whatever the Recreation Commission wants, and discussed possible options for games or activities, such as a carved pumpkin contest or cookie decorating. Paula explained that they want Oktoberfest to be a family-friendly event, and will be hosted from 12:00pm – 10:30pm on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Gulla also explained that they are having a ladies' frying pan toss, stein holding competition, and a grain sack tossing competition. Members agreed to discuss their participation and get back to her. Thompson suggested getting a reusable banner for Sandown Rec to display at events since they are present at so many events lately. Blaisdell asked Thompson to get a price and get back to them.

Paula & Jim left meeting.

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53
54 **Payment Requests**

55 Members reviewed and signed for the following:

56 \$1,160 - Invoice for late spring yoga

57 \$500 - Senior lunch down payment

58 \$359 - Bus to Sky Zone for field trip

59
60
61 **Review of Summer Rec 2023**

62
63 ***Parent Survey***

64 Thompson explained that unfortunately the parent survey was accidentally deleted and she is
65 trying to recover it. She said overall it was very positive but she will try to get it for them.

66
67 ***Coordinator Letters***

68 Thompson shared that the coordinators were unable to attend the meeting because of school.
69 Hudgins asked what the issues were regarding busses being late. Thompson explained that she
70 contacted busses biweekly, but said the GPS location of the Rec Building was incorrect and out of
71 their control. Longchamps suggested telling busses to arrive an hour before they are needed, and
72 Thompson reassured that busses were never more than 15 minutes late. Members and Thompson
73 discussed possible ways to solve the GPS location issue.

74
75 ***CIT Program***

76 Thompson said she discussed with coordinators from last year that moving forward CIT's will be
77 invited back instead of being signed up by parents, with the exception of week 1. Thompson added
78 that some counselors chose not to return for next year, and others will not be invited back.
79 Thompson explained that she enjoyed all of the counselors, but some are better fit for other
80 positions.

81
82 ***Lifeguards***

83 Thompson said next year she plans on making a handbook to help guide lifeguards, and members
84 discussed the issue of lifeguards returning for next year and the current lifeguard shortage.
85 Thompson shared that other towns are struggling to find lifeguards, as well.

86
87 ***Budget***

88 Thompson said summer camp brought in \$94,000, and did very well this summer. Thompson said
89 she had to sign off on payroll tax. Hudgins and Longchamps were concerned why payroll tax was so
90 high, and Thompson said the number also includes payroll. Members and Thompson agreed to
91 change the wording to "Payroll and Payroll Tax." Members discussed individual budget items, and
92 specific areas that are over budget, such as toilets and electricity. Blaisdell said he hopes to see a
93 budget quarterly to keep an eye on expenses.

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104 **Review of Fall Programming for 2023**

105 Thompson shared that she updated the calendar through December, and it filled up quickly,
106 including homeschool club, chair yoga, 14+ kung fu class, and functional fitness, which is a class for
107 seniors to maintain daily life physical abilities, such as carrying groceries. Ladies' Craft Night will
108 also be held monthly starting in October. Thompson suggested hosting a Parent's Night Out on a
109 Friday evening where the kids make dessert, play games and watch a movie. Blaisdell suggested
110 holding the event before Christmas so parents can do their Christmas shopping. Members and
111 Thompson also discussed the toy swap, and the possibility of hosting it at Town Hall. Thompson
112 said she wants to host the event earlier in the day this year.

113
114 **Monster Mash 2023**

115 Thompson said the event is scheduled for October 28 from 3pm-6pm, which is also the same day as
116 Rock Church's Trunk-or-Treat event, which may increase attendance for both events. She plans on
117 asking Historical Society if they are interested in being involved with the event, and has lots of
118 interest from families on Facebook already. Thompson shared that she has spoken with 8 food
119 trucks, and is waiting to hear back from them. Thompson and members discussed needing extra
120 help to run the event, and Hudgins suggested asking Sandown Lions. Members discussed games for
121 the event, and the possibility of a haunted house.

122
123 **Beginning review for 2024 Budget**

124 Thompson said her goal is to have everything combined into one budget. Thompson explained how
125 the budget is currently set up, and shared her ideas for the combined budget, such as combining
126 Internet and Technology. Members and Thompson agreed that all members should be present for
127 that discussion. Members discussed presenting the new budget to Budget Committee and having a
128 packet explaining all changes and answering questions they may have.

129
130 Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.

131 ***Motion By:*** Blaisdell

132 ***Seconded By:*** Longchamps

133 ***In Favor:*** All

134 ***Motion passes unanimously.***

135
136
137 Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

138
139 Next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2023.

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141
142 **Submitted By:**

143
144 *Jessica Manning*

145
146 Jessica Manning

147 Recording Secretary