

# RECREATION COMMISSION

## Town of Sandown, NH

### **Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Date:** January 17, 2024

**Meeting Location:** Rec Building

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**Members Present:** Chairman George Blaisdell; Heidi Dyer; Chris Longchamps

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

**Members Not Present:** Ben Sharpe; Darren Hudgins, ex officio

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

Dyer made a motion to accept minutes as written from September 20, 2023.

***Motion By:*** Dyer

***Seconded By:*** Longchamps

***In Favor:*** All

***Motion passes unanimously.***

### **Summer Camp discussion, changes in starting counselor pay, CIT program, and positions**

#### ***Changes in Starting Counselor Pay***

Francis explained that she wants to make “drastic” changes to summer camp this year, including raising starting counselor pay to \$14 per hour, and wants to raise the cost of camp by \$10 per week. Francis and members discussed the current counselor pay of \$11 per hour, and Francis said they may have to compete with other towns for counselors because of pay, and feels they must increase their pay in order to keep them. Francis explained that at a recent Rec conference, she learned that surrounding towns are paying similarly, and members discussed how the proposed pay increase would affect other camp staff. Members and Francis discussed paying \$13 per hour for counselors, and the \$10 increase of camp. Members asked for a cost breakdown of camp.

#### ***Summer Camp Coaches***

Francis added that she wants to add Art Coach, Sports Coach, and Science Coach positions to the summer camp staff, meaning there would be specific staff with additional responsibility for leading activities, and hopes to offer the positions to counselors who have worked for at least 3 years. Blaisdell asked how they differentiate from other counselors, and Francis said she hopes to pay them \$15 per hour, and hopes these positions take some of the work off the coordinators. Dyer reminded that Francis should be spending most of her time in the office and handling phone calls, while the coordinators handle day-to-day interactions with campers and parents. Francis said she hopes to be present for drop-off, pick-up, and field trips. Members discussed the role of coordinators, and whether they should be deciding on curriculum, rather than the proposed coach positions. Francis explained that she hopes to give more work experience to counselors, and Dyer felt unsure about the benefit of a Sports Coach, since they already do so many sports. Longchamps agreed that he is unsure of the benefits of coaches, and asked for a detailed job description. Dyer suggested calling them Specialty Counselors, with pay based on experience. Members agreed to revisit the issue again with a full board.

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54 ***Late Care***

55 Francis explained that she hopes to offer a summer camp late care program from 4-5pm, and plans  
56 to have assistant coordinators stay late, as well as supervise scheduled break times for staff  
57 throughout the day. Members discussed when assistant coordinators would plan programming,  
58 and Francis said they would make plans during the welcome week. Francis said she hopes to  
59 charge \$25 per day, and members were concerned this was too expensive, and decided on \$10 per  
60 day.

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62 ***CIT Program***

63 Francis shared ideas to change the CIT program, such as learning job skills and reducing the price.  
64 She hopes to charge \$30 per week, instead of the current price of \$70 per week, to incentivize  
65 enrollment in the program. Francis explained that the coordinators will run a weekly program of  
66 job skills, resume writing, and camp activity planning for CITs, and members shared their concern  
67 that CITs will not enjoy it. Dyer suggested calling it "leadership training," with a focus on how to be  
68 a counselor.

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70 ***Canobie Water Park***

71 Francis shared that she is no longer comfortable having the campers use the water park since not  
72 all camp staff are lifeguard trained, largely because of an incident last year. Dyer said that members  
73 should have been made aware of the incident immediately after it occurred.

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75 ***Conference Update***

76 Members and Francis discussed her conference. Francis explained that she learned lots about  
77 strategic planning, Rec's role in community, and lots about summer camp. She also made  
78 connections with other Rec Directors, such as Rochester, and spoke with Zumba and line dancing  
79 instructors.

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82 **Contract between Sandown Recreation and The Sandown Baseball/Softball Association**

83 Blaisdell explained that he wants to see Baseball's schedule as soon as possible, and hopes to have a  
84 set date when Rec is given the schedule yearly, possibly the first week in March. Members  
85 discussed field maintenance, parking, and agreed that no children under 16 years old are allowed in  
86 the snack shack. Francis said she hopes to get the Health Officer to inspect and approve the snack  
87 shack before use.

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90 ***Discussion of old business begins.***

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92 **Upcoming Programming**

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94 ***Chunky's Movie Night***

95 Planned for February vacation week, and they are choosing the movie now.

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97 ***April Vacation Programming***

98 Francis is planning Bingo for Books event and a rollerblading and/or ice-skating event.

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104    ***Pokémon Game Night***  
105    Planned for this Friday, with 10 kids signed up.  
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107    ***Encore Casino Bus Trip***  
108    Bus trip to Encore planned for February 21<sup>st</sup>. Cost is \$27 per person, with a \$20 voucher.  
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110    ***Additional Upcoming Programming***  
111    Zumba and line dancing classes are coming up. Francis said chair yoga is starting, and hopes to  
112    have a knitting group.  
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116    Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.  
117    ***Motion By:*** Blaisdell  
118    ***Seconded By:*** Dyer  
119    ***In Favor:*** All  
120    ***Motion passes unanimously.***  
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123    Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.  
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125    Next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024.  
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130    **Submitted By:**  
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132    *Jessica Manning*  
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134    Jessica Manning  
135    Recording Secretary