

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: April 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

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

Longchamps made a motion to accept minutes as written from March 20, 2024.

Motion By: Longchamps

Seconded By: Dyer

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Summer Music Series

Paula & Jim Gulla explained that they would like to put together a free summer music series for 6-8 weeks and use the rec field, and is asking if the commission is interested in joining them. Gulla said they have lots of interest on Facebook and already 3 commitments to play. Paula explained that they would plan the events, if the Rec Department could sponsor the event and help with advertising. Members and Francis discussed the best day to hold the event, and thought Tuesday evenings overlapping the farmer's market would be best. Francis explained that they would have porta-potties for restrooms, and shared concerns over lack of lighting on the field after sunset. Dyer suggested looking into portable lighting units, and members agreed residents will have to bring their own bug spray. Francis hopes to hold the event from 5:30-7pm, and Paula reminded to advertise no alcohol or dogs allowed. Members discussed looking into having the fields fogged for bugs, and looking for food trucks. Francis hopes to start the event on June 25th coinciding with the start of the farmer's market.

Discussion of new business begins.

Contract between Sandown Recreation and The Sandown Baseball/Softball Association

Francis and members agreed to look further into the contract when Sharpe is present at the meeting.

Review of letters of interest for recreation commission member

Francis shared that she has only received one letter of interest so far, and would like to extend the deadline to get more interest. Members gave consensus to extend the deadline until May 1st.

Discussion of Ed Garvey basement flooding issues

Members inspected the flooding damage in the basement, and agreed that they will look into the cause of the repeated flooding. Francis said she will set something up.

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53
54 **Discussion of Seely Beach stairs damage**

55 Francis said she was hoping to have more information but unfortunately Artie is very busy, and
56 explained that the railing under the tree is damaged and will have to be taken out. Blaisdell said he
57 can look at the railing and assess the damage. Francis shared that Lynne said if the damage was
58 over \$1,000, then they could use insurance. Francis also said she will get a repair estimate as soon
59 as the tree is removed, and had asked Artie to have the tree removed before camp begins. Members
60 agreed that the tree should be removed sooner, since they will still need time to repair the railing
61 before camp starts.

62
63 **Raffle Donation for Fishing Derby**

64 Scheduled for next Saturday, and members agreed to donate a free week of camp as a prize.

65
66 **Kindergarten Graduation Discussion**

67 Francis explained that the school is hoping to use the Rec fields for graduation again this year, and
68 members gave consensus to allow. Members discussed using the building or scheduling a rain date.
69 Because of the large number of attendees, members agreed that they must provide a rain date to
70 continue to hold event outside.

71
72 **Review of pickleball nets/ new basketball nets**

73 Francis explained that the pickleball nets were more reasonably priced than she expected, and
74 members discussed set-up and advertising of pickleball court. Members gave consensus to order
75 pickleball net.

76
77 **Review of POD storage for summer camp**

78 Francis said the quote for a POD storage unit is \$577 for the summer, for the mid-size option, which
79 will need a lock.

80
81 **Miller Field Water Tank**

82 Francis said Allied Clearwater recommended replacing the water tanks, and need to sign-off on
83 their liability if they choose to keep them.

84
85 **Scoreboard**

86 Francis and members discussed the existing scoreboard and the meter which is sticking up. Francis
87 explained that Selectman Tombarello offered to fix it for free, but there will be an additional bill for
88 the electricity, possibly around \$15 per month. Blaisdell suggested to discuss it when Sharpe is in
89 attendance, and members discussed the option of solar panels to keep monthly costs down.

90
91 **Rentals**

92 Francis explained that rentals have been consistent each weekend since January. Members
93 discussed cleaning before rentals and Blaisdell explained that he would like the floors to be kept
94 cleaner, and possibly having them polished quarterly. Members discussed raising the rental fee
95 slightly to cover the cost of the floor polishing, and Longchamps suggested having someone clean
96 the floors in between rentals. Dyer also suggested taking an inventory of all minor repairs needed,
97 such as marks on the walls, and decorating the front of the building with flowerpots. Members
98 discussed the earnings from rentals.

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104 **Movies**

105 Dyer asked about showing movies, and Francis said they unfortunately don't get enough interest.
106 Members discussed what to do with the movie screen, such as renting it or offering it to other town
107 groups, such as Old Home Day or Oktoberfest.

108
109 **Summer Camp Staff Needed**

110 Francis explained that she is only allowing 60 campers per week until more staff is hired, and has
111 committed to field trip dates, but has no quotes from bus company yet. Dyer and Longchamps felt
112 that they need more campers since the busses will not be full. Francis said she wants 1-10 ratios,
113 and Dyer reminded that the ratios could be higher if needed. Francis explained that she wants to be
114 a licensed camp, which will need the 1-10 ratio. Dyer said they are a municipal recreation
115 department and not necessarily a camp. Longchamps felt that staff need to be hired before families
116 sign their children up elsewhere, and Francis said she doesn't hire without the Coordinators, for
117 their input. Longchamps suggested holding first interviews, and scheduling a second interview
118 with Coordinators, to get future staff in now. Francis explained that Coordinators are not included
119 in the ratios since they often have other tasks and are needed elsewhere, and said she handed out
120 flyers today at the high school job fair. Members discussed the waitlist, which Francis said was
121 already full for week 3.

122
123
124 **Generator**

125 Blaisdell suggested purchasing a generator with ARPA money, to use as a warming station during
126 storms, and members discussed if this was needed. Francis said she will look into quotes.

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128
129 Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.

130 ***Motion By:*** Blaisdell

131 ***Seconded By:*** Longchamps

132 ***In Favor:*** All

133 ***Motion passes unanimously.***

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136 Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

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138 Next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2024.

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140
141
142 **Submitted By:**

143
144 *Jessica Manning*

145 Jessica Manning

146 Recording Secretary