

Recreation Advisory Board Minutes 1/20/2022

Virtually Held Meeting

Called to Order at: 6:02 PM

Attendees:

Tracy Murphy, Anne Sigsbee, Sharon Basso, Kyle Wibby, Carol Counihan - joined at 6:11pm, Joan Francolini - joined at 6:24

Select Board Representative: Meff Runyon

Recreation Director - Alan Harrison

Public Comment: None

Approve Minutes of January meeting:

Anne 1st, Sharon 2nd – unanimously approved

Alan noted that the vote count that was stated as 7-1, which should have been 6-1. (Minutes have been updated and resubmitted)

Anne 1st, Sharon 2nd to correct minutes - unanimously approved

Director's Report: Not Submitted in advance

- Very strong winter basketball programming: 5th-6th grade girls, 18 participating. 5th & 6th grade boys, 18 participating. Yielding two teams for each. Grades 3-4 one team for girls and one for boys.
- Morning Fitness: 22 enrolled, class meets in the DPW Garage in inclement weather
- Fundamentals of Running: will hold a second course in March
- Ice Skating: two saturday sessions
- Spring Tennis is set for school age and adults

Sharon asked about the Registration is Closed message for Ball Skills as the class did not fill up, and Alan stated that the classes have to be closed that are held inside due to Covid restrictions. There was then discussion on the Registration is Closed use and how Alan was using this to respond to a request from Tracy.

Sharon stated that the Donation Button says 2020, Alan will fix it in the morning.

Sharon asked if Alan could address the need for High School Intramural Teams, Alan agreed to take this up with the other town AD's at their next meeting

Tracy asked if an open ended question could be used with Survey Monkey, Alan said it could not but he would look into Google forms.

Action Steps: Alan to fix Donation Button, address Intramural Teams with other town AD's and look into using Google Forms to include open ended questions.

Budget Discussion:

- Tracy was waiting to hear from Tom on the option to collect money in July vs May for programs. Although Tom has not gotten back to Tracy on this, Alan stated that he heard that this could not be done.
- Per Tom, and Alan confirmed, Alan cannot encumber funds
- Robust discussion on the Revolving Fund: Concerns of the Revolving Fund being used to pay for items that should be in the general fund. The Revolving Fund was set up from fees, with the sole purpose of increasing programming.
 - Meeting Unmet Needs
 - Tool to grow the program, and the program has not grown since fees have been collected
- RAC strongly stated that without a plan, it is impossible to grow the program.
- Alan strongly stated that without staff it will be impossible to grow the program
- RAC's position is that we have had numerous members of the community volunteer to help and there has been limited to no response
 - Discussed RAC moving on to work with other groups in town, as there is no partnership with REC.
- RAC proposes a different oversight structure, as the current process allows for items to get paid that are not inline with how the fund was set-up. RAC has asked for clarity on the Community Life Position
- Meff asked for a list of priorities and response was one will be sent in writing, but to start:
 - Announcing Programs months in advance so families can plan
 - Open Gym
 - Access to the Gym for teams to practise
 - Master Calendar
 - Registration be open to Orleans residents for the first 10 days
 - Survey that is open ended
 - Metrics that is actionable
 - Utilize the Town's website and emails to send out information

Action Item: Meff will get RAC on the Selectboard Agenda to discuss the RAC/REC concerns: Revolving Fund, unmet needs, growing the program and the Community Life Position

Director's Report: Not Submitted in advance

CPC Updates:

- Master Plan on Eldredge – Tracy had positive conversations with the Regional School Committee & OES. Plan that looks at all three properties together is optimal, preserving the opportunity for each participant to get what they need from the proposal. Proposal to be presented at the Feb. 3rd CPC meeting

- Idea to look at the Community Center without walls to include some other parcels of land and buildings in town. Oddfellows Hall might be interested in being considered as being part of a Community Center. Kyle was following up with them.
- Thoughts of identifying other areas - industrial, housing authority land, idea would be to go big
- Kayak Racks: Anne is going to recommend fees for the Kayak Rack program, the rest of the project will not get implemented until more work is done, likely Spring of 2023
- Putnam Farm: Tracy to write letter of support

Action Steps: Tracy to write-letter of support for Putnam Farms

Future Agenda Items:

- RAC Charge
- Community Coordinator Position
- Update on Community Center Task Force

Motion to adjourn – Joan 1st/ Sharon 2nd motion - unanimously 7:35pm

Next meeting – Feb. 17th, 6:00pm