

ORLEANS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

Organization: Orleans Recreation Dept.

Date: 4-15-2022

Interviewer: Fritz Luft*

Interviewee: Alan Harrison

Title: Recreation Director

* Based on David Eisen notes from conversation with Alan Harrison on March 16.

What, in general terms, is the mission / purpose of your organization and what demographic do you serve?

The Orleans Rec. Depart is tasked with providing healthy recreational and social activities to the residents of Orleans. The primary focus is on physical afterschool/evening/weekend and summer activities for youth with an emphasis on adult and senior fitness programming

What programs do you offer, and for each program, who is the target audience and how many people do you serve?

See attached 2/10/2022 memo from Tom Daly and Alan Harrison to John Kelly.

Also, attached list of programs put in place since the revolving fund was established.

Firm numbers on people served are not readily available.

What building(s) does your organization use?

- The NRMS full sized gym with bleachers on weekday evening from 6-8 PM and all day on Saturdays. There is very little storage available on this site.
- The elementary school physical education gym is available on Saturdays but has no storage space or seating area.
- Outdoor facilities around town include tennis courts, ballfields and school playground areas when not in use by school sponsored activities.
- Full use of OES gym facility in summer for a youth recreational playground program.
- A Director's office in the DPW building along with equipment storage room on a mezzanine above the DPW vehicle storage garage. Sports equipment must be carried down the stairs and moved to recreational venues by van.

What spaces within those buildings, approximately how big are they, and what activities do you conduct? And approximately how many hours per day, week or month?

- 1) Full gym with bleachers at the NRMS. Mid-week 6-8 PM, all day Saturday; ie. 65 hr/mo. Mostly a variety of youth physical games and practices.
- 2) ¾ sized gym at the OES. Mid-week after 5:30 PM, mornings Saturday. 65 hr/mo. Mostly a variety of youth physical games but some family play time on Saturdays.
- 3) Various outdoor spaces off of Eldridge Parkway; tennis courts, ball fields.

If you have a detailed activity table or schedule of activities, please pass on to us with as much information as you have available.

Don't have a comprehensive schedule of all activities and events but the attached 2/10/2022 memo from Tom Daly and Alan Harrison to John Kelly provides a valuable overview.

It is the goal of the recreation department to offer a variety of activities during each of the four seasons utilizing either indoor space or outdoor fields.

For each program, could attendance be expanded if you had additional space or a different location? Do you have plans to grow – and what is limiting that growth?

Growth is limited by both insufficient staffing (only a single ¾ time Rec. Director) and space.

- The previously mentioned 2/10/2020 letter to John Kelly describes some specific expansions that would be possible with a modest increase in staffing.

Access to both the elementary school and gym is limited to certain evening and weekend hours. Many more adult athletic programs could be put in place with a dedicated Recreation Dept. gym.

Also, a large shared multi-purpose room could be used for expanded exercise classes including some currently taking place at the Senior Center, reducing the overcrowding there.

Do the facilities you use meet your needs, and if not, how would you improved them? This might mean improving the spaces you use, or having a different site in a different kind of building.

There are no dedicated facilities. This topic covered in answered to previous questions.

Have you seen buildings or facilities in other towns that have features that you like?

The town of Harwich and the town of Chatham.

Would a new Orleans Community Center, with spaces that you share with other organizations, and with support spaces like a front office, lobby, lounge, café, etc. be better for you and your mission?

If the community center had a gym, sharing of a building with other groups and activities would be feasible and welcome.

- A shared front desk would allow efficiency in keeping the building open for long hours.
- A shared multipurpose room would allow for expanded exercise classes while maximizing utilization rates.
- A shared lounge or café for relaxation and mingling after athletic activities would be welcome as well. Sharing allows the utilization rates to be high enough for critical mass and a sense of excitement and social engagement.

If so, would you need dedicated space – storage, offices etc. – or would it be enough to have a space that you utilize on a scheduled basis? What kind of spaces would you need for what programs?

Dedicated storage space is essential and local office space a significant benefit as well.

The gym should be under Rec. Dept control although certain open gym sessions wouldn't need Rec. Dept. programming.

What are the key things you would like to see in a Community Center?

The recreation department having scheduling privileges during various hours.

Adequate staffing to allow programming weekdays, weekends and weeknights.

A welcoming environment/lobby area.

Other Observations or Comments?



Town of Orleans

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Thomas E. Daley, P.E.,
Director

Nathan Sears
Natural Resources Mgr

To: John Kelly / Town Administrator
Fr: Tom Daley / Dir. of DPW&NR
Alan Harrison / Rec. Director
Re: Response to RAC recommendations
Date: 2/10/22

For years now we have been endorsing the ideas of making our Rec. Director full-time and adding an Assistant Rec. Director position similar to our neighboring communities, in order to increase Recreation Dept. programs, etc. Alan and I have reviewed the RAC recommendations and offer the following information. I have copied the RAC memo below and our comments are in "red" and "green". "Red" comments will be accomplished with an extra 5 hrs per week for the Rec. Dir. "Green" comments will be accomplished with a full-time assistant.

To: Orleans Select Board, John Kelly, Tom Daley, Nathan Sears, Alan Harrison
From: Orleans Recreation Advisory Committee
Re: Orleans Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) recommendations to Orleans Recreation Department

1. RAC recommends that Orleans Recreation pursue new and/or extended recreation programming for Orleans residents. We'd like Orleans Recreation to consider:

Summer

pickleball lessons – **scheduled lessons will be added during summer rec. timeframe.**

tennis lessons for all age groups

additional two weeks of summer programming when traditional summer program ends in early August; consideration of full/extended day program

lifeguard feeder program, beach safety day, swim safety clinic

bike safety clinic - **will be added during summer rec. timeframe.**

OPD August Block Party – **up to the PD. Happy to work with them any way we can.**

softball/baseball/wiffleball teams/games, clinics (**Saturday morning summer youth soccer clinics between the 2nd week of July and the second week of August**), batting cage, pitching machine

skateboard clinic (Knucklebones)

kayak clinic

basketball clinic – **will provide a summer clinic.**

School year

after school enrichment programs (ultimate frisbee, street hockey, arts & crafts, magic/stem, bike rides, etc.) (afterschool recreational activities at OES and NRMS pending facility approval from OES (maximum of two days per week))

half-day programming

six weeks (up from four) of tennis lessons for elementary, middle/high school students, adults

open gym for all age groups

Year round

pickleball, including indoor pickle ball during the winter Will do. Sunday only when indoors at OES with approval.

collaborations with OPD, Snow Library, OCT, OES, etc. Already are but will expand.
intergenerational activities

2. RAC recommends that Orleans Recreation announce (through Recreation email blast, Facebook, COA newsletter, Channel 18, and school blasts) programming for the upcoming season well in advance of programs commencing. Use recreation email lists (from MYREC), Recreation Facebook, school email blasts, Channel 18, Town of Orleans website and other social media outlets to promote activities and upcoming events.

Orleans Recreation should also create a master calendar of all offerings. Will work with other town employees (Peter Van Dyke, Sarah Eaton) to implement a google calendar to outline upcoming recreation events.

Summer programs should be announced the first week of May; fall programming the third week of August; winter programming the second week of November; spring programming the last week of February. Will do.

RAC also recommends that registration be open to “residents only” for 10 days before being opened to non-residents. Will do.

3. RAC recommends that all participants in Recreation Department programs are sent a brief survey at the end of the season, to provide input on future programming and offer suggestions. Survey results should be used to plan future programming and spending. Will do.

4. RAC recommends the department preserves a public record of all metrics concerning program participation and waitlist numbers. Will do.

In addition to the above RAC requests we commit to the following additional:

Add two days per week to after school activities (mid Sept. – mid Nov., mid-April – mid June)
(pending school approvals)

One day at OES 2:00 pm - 3:00pm

One day at NRMS 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Develop special seasonal events:

family days

road race/XC races

tournaments

Assist with the development and implementation of a recreational 5 year plan to address growth and facility needs.

List of programs started since the revolving fund was established

1. Field Hockey Instructional Program (Saturday mornings, started fall 2021)
2. Improve Your Running 101 (December and January 2021-2022)
3. Soccer Tots (Saturday mornings, currently running until 3/5/2022)
4. Skills Drills and Spills Sports Camp grades 3-4 (February vacation 2022)
5. Skills Drills and Spills grade 5-6 Sports Camp (February vacation 2022)
6. Sunrise Yoga (June- September) started summer 2021
7. Saturday Morning youth summer soccer grades 3 -4 (July- August) started 2021
8. Little Kickers Saturday morning summer soccer program (grades K-2) July- August 2021
9. Orleans recreation summer basketball camp (last week of June and first week of July) started summer 2021
10. Introduction to Tai Chi (winter and spring) started winter 2020
11. Burdenko Fitness for Adults (Fall/winter/spring) started winter 2019
12. Adult morning fitness program (year round M/W/F) started summer 2020
13. Child Care at town meeting started spring 2019/resumed fall 2021
14. Introduction to pickleball workshops (started fall 2019)
15. Advanced pickleball workshops (started fall 2019)
16. Holiday ice skating at Charles Moore Arena (started 2019)
17. February vacation ice skating (start February 2022)
18. Middle school afterschool cross country running (Fall 2020)
19. Middle school fall afterschool soccer (Fall 2020)
20. A Walk in the park (Fall 2020-winter 2021)
21. April vacation youth soccer program (started April 2021)
22. Friday morning senior men's adult fitness class (began 2019)
23. Grade 1 and 2 Ball skills afterschool program (started fall 2019)
24. Learn the Sport of Curling All ages (June 2021)
25. Learn to Row grades 6-7-8 (began in 2019)
26. Adult Learn to Row (began in 2019)
27. Monday night drop in soccer (July-August) all ages began summer 2021
28. Youth winter fun soccer tournament grades 3-6 (winter 2021)
29. Grade 4 and 5 afterschool soccer (winter 2019-2020)
30. Afterschool grade 1-2 fitness program (fall 2019-2020)
31. Afterschool indoor soccer grades 4-5) January – March 2020
32. Field trip to Water Slide at the Cape Codder/Hyannis Feb 2020
33. Friday morning walk-in basketball OES students (winter-spring 2020)
34. Futsol grades 5-8 (March- April 2020) cancelled after three sessions due to COVID
35. Friday afterschool elementary level fall soccer clinic (Fall 2019)
36. Friday afterschool middle school level soccer clinic (Fall 2019)
37. April vacation ice skating (April 2021 and 2022)
38. Open gym (scheduled sessions for grades k-5) March and April 2020 cancelled after two weeks due to COVID