

Recreation Commission meeting Monday, August 23, 2010

Tana Babbitt in attendance
Robert Benton not in attendance
Jennifer Gallagher not in attendance
Charlie Hammond in attendance
Bill O'Neill not in attendance
Erin Gianni in attendance
Elizabeth Nikiciuk, Chair in attendance
Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance
Anne Daley not in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:08PM

Review and Vote on July Minutes

The meeting minutes of July 19, 2010 were reviewed. Tana motioned to accept, Erin seconded, all in favor, July minutes accepted.

Old Business

Tana reported that Ultimate Frisbee program was successful. The finale was a small tournament on August 11th on the OA turf field. Remainder of money collected for fees was given to Jen H.

Jen H reported financial assistance was received from Parkview, FLO, Center school PACS, MOMS club, VFW, HUGS, and Lions Club totaling \$2010. 20 applications were received for summer program financial assistance. 2 were ineligible, 7 chose not to use the assistance. 11 children were able to attend summer program at discounted rate. Thank you letters were sent to the groups, and a letter to acknowledge these groups was sent to the Easton Journal.

Friends Crossing Grant applied for via Stephanie Danielson. 58 applications were made, the most previously were 38. Awards will be made in October. Most grants are given to urban communities. Is there an educational aspect that could be explored?

Elizabeth reported on Children's Races at Frothingham Park. Donations collected 1st week: \$140, 2nd week \$185 including t-shirt sales, 3rd week: \$92, 4th week \$113, 5th week \$70. Number of participants has been consistent, and there have been some new people each week as well. Money collected will cover the cost of the ribbons. ~2000 ribbons awarded each summer at ~\$600. MOMS club continues to provide freeze pops.

Elizabeth asked about MOMS club using Frothingham Hall on occasion. Jen H informed us that any group wanting to use the Hall needed to have their own insurance. Insurance can be purchased for one day events at reasonable rates.

Jen H reported fall programming was being finalized. Programs to be offered include Musical Theatre, youth and adult Hip Hop, Golf, Running Club, Flag Football, Tennis, Chess, beginner Lacrosse, Homework club, Art, Ballroom dancing, Cake decorating, Zumba, Yoga, pre-school programming. Elizabeth expressed concern that scheduling of programs be done so that building could be staffed appropriately, and Anne would not have to be there every night. Anne wanted some Saturday classes. Elizabeth suggested Pre-school programming be a priority. Jen H said our summer pre-school teacher could offer some program possibilities, and possibly staffing for the pre-school programs. Erin has a contact for Baby Yoga, and she thought the contact would like to do a series of classes rather than a single class.

Friends of Frothingham update: Activity for this has dwindled. No plans in the works for a fall dance, or Road Race. Erin suggested a dance for 3rd – 5th graders. It was felt parents would need to be present for this age group. We would like to target that age group for an activity. They have in school Harry Potter and Survivor nights which are popular. Ideas included a Game Night, a Father – Daughter dance. Richardson uses a DJ whose child attends the HHR.

Erin asked about the Town Pool. Jen said it has been a good summer. Swim Lessons always get a positive feed back. Swim Team was a lot of fun, too. 1 week was left closes August 28th. Financials available next meeting. After \$17000 used for docks, about \$7000 left in SERD account.

Red Sox Alumni softball game September 11th is fast approaching. Want to be sure Bathrooms, hand soap, and paper goods are available. Our share so far of the sales is at \$5200. Rec dept has received calls wondering about the legitimacy of the callers, and that some callers have been abrupt, and perhaps not as professional as we would want. Perhaps some callers have implied donations would save Jen H's job, and that needed to be stopped.

Discussed that a Veteran may ask for a moment of silence, perhaps throw out first pitch. Sunday Sept 12th is the rain date. Baseball players, and softball players to participate. Tana to help Jen with contact info for the baseball players.

CPA Update

Elizabeth reported The Belcher Foundry property is large enough to only have 2 fields. The fields would have to be on the footprint of the concreted area due to wetlands, etc. The Carriage House land is similar with space for 2 fields. Elizabeth spoke about our desire to develop some pocket parks around the town to accommodate all area of town. One possibility that Ed Hands brought to Elizabeth's attention at the CPA meeting is a park on Church Street to left of Memorial. Stephanie Danielson looking into the deed.

Friends Crossing Group

Elizabeth stated that no new information has transpired yet.

New Business

Looking at Peterson field as a drop off field to alleviate crowding for soccer practices, and such. Suggestion that an Eagle Scout project could be at that site - clearing, adding stone on the access path, making benches. Charlie gave us some history of that field – it was once a Boy Scout Camp field. Pine Street field might be another good drop-off field. (We are defining these as limited parking but room for a couple of coaches' cars, and players would be dropped there.) We would want to coordinate practice times, somehow.

Also, the outfield at Union Villa field could be used for practices. Tom Larson has been doing the upkeep on this field. \$600 used for infield maintenance. Some adult volleyball has been there during the summer.

Jen H brought up Frothingham Hall Steering committee that is planning the Hall renovations; They meet once per month. They are targeting green initiatives and sustainability. Elizabeth suggest Anne should attend since she would be most aware of spaces for Rec needs.

Erin asked about an assessment tool for evaluating our programs each year. Erin offered to stream line, and set up an excel spreadsheet or similar for this evaluation.

Elizabeth informs us of a meeting September 21st at 6:30PM in the Selectmen's office. David Colton will attend with the Y, and Recreation to discuss collaboration between our groups.

Erin motioned to adjourn, Tana seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37PM

Next Meeting Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Nikiciuk, Chair

Tana Babbitt