

Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Tana Babbitt in attendance
Robert Benton in attendance
Len Cidado not in attendance
Kathleen DeGrandis in attendance
Charlie Hammond not in attendance
Mike McDonald, Chairman not in attendance
Elizabeth Nikiciuk in attendance

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:20PM

Review and Vote on January Minutes

Elizabeth motioned to accept, Bob seconded, all in favor, January minutes accepted.

Old Business

Jennifer reported a playground reimbursement check from the Richardson School PAC has been received. Elizabeth asked if there has been any more news on our proposed budget for FY2010. Jennifer said she already met with David and next week will be meeting with a representative from the Finance Committee. Additional cuts may still be needed. Tana asked about the status of the Friends Crossing property. Bob reported that no further meetings on that topic have taken place.

Spring Programs

Jennifer handed out the spring programs flyer containing information on the 2nd Annual Holiday Egg Hunt, after school programs, and a number of group trips. A draft flyer for tee ball and pre-baseball was also reviewed. Other upcoming spring programs include a senior trip to the Westport Winery, youth and adult golf lessons, and youth and adult tennis lessons. The Activate Easton Committee is planning another Walk to School program this spring at the Olmsted and Richardson Schools as well as a number of family activities during TV Turnoff Week in April.

Jennifer said plans for the summer are already underway. The town pool opening day celebration is tentatively scheduled for June 27th. The full-day summer program may undergo some changes, such as extended hours to better accommodate working parents. The cost of the program and field trips will also be examined to make the program more affordable and inviting to younger children. Other

summer programs will include science workshops, tennis, archery, multi-sports, performing arts, flag football, and rugby.

Kathleen suggested enrollment in the summer program and fees be based on age level. She recommends letting the older children go on larger field trips such as Six Flags and Water Country while younger children are given different options. She asked if there will be an extra fee for extended hours. Jennifer said there will be an additional fee in order to pay staff and possible custodial fees. Kathleen suggested adding a half day option to the summer program at a lower cost. Elizabeth asked if Skyhawks will be running the summer multi-sports program. Jennifer said we will be trying out another company this summer, US Sports Institute. They come highly recommended from members of the MRPA. Elizabeth asked that the eligibility dates to play tee ball and pre-baseball be double checked with youth baseball before the flyer is distributed.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Jennifer handed out a portion of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. She highlighted all Recreation related items in the five year action plan. She feels the Commission should be aware and proactive in dealing with these items. Elizabeth feels it is not the best time to purchase land due to the economy and would like to see the department focus on programs. Kathleen feels now would be a good time to buy property at a reduced price. Bob said if we don't buy the land now, others will. Kathleen said funding to purchase land is separate from funding to operate the department. Bob asked that Pat Hunt be invited to our next meeting to discuss potential parcels for recreational use.

Elizabeth feels we should better maintain the fields we already own. Pine Street field needs maintenance and has a terrible bee problem. Peterson field is in poor condition and has no direct access. Jennifer said that Pine Street field will no longer be used for tee ball because of parking issues. Bob said we should focus maintenance efforts on the new tee ball field at the Snelgrove Playground. Opening day tee ball events should be held there. Elizabeth suggested we should also have an opening night celebration at the first summer concert. Kathleen suggested an adult fun run/walk be held in conjunction with the children's races or concerts this summer as well.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Approval of Minutes

Michael McDonald, Chairman

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director

