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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 7, 2017

Rye Town Hall Court Room

10 Central Road, Rye, NH

6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Cory Belden, Maggie Duffy-Durkin, Brett Mulvey, Joe Persechino, Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

B. Roll Call

C. Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2017.
The meeting minutes of July 10, 2017 were reviewed.

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2017 as presented. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Motion carried. Maggie Duffy-Durkin abstained.

D. Correspondence

- **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for July, 2017 were reviewed. At the end of July the Recreation General Fund Budget had 45.66% remaining, the Recreation Revolving Fund Budget had 59.58% remaining and the Patriotic Purposes Budget had 37.88% remaining. It was noted that the Memorial Day Line Item was over by \$150.00 and the July 4th Celebration Line Item was under by \$912.92. The Holiday Parade is not operated by Rye Recreation, it is operated by the Rye Firefighters Association; however the Town sponsors the event and placed a Holiday Parade Line Item in the Patriotic Purposes Budget.

E. Old Business

- **Recreation Commission Positions**

At the last Recreation Commission it was discussed having alternates. The Town Attorney has noted that RSA 35-B:4 does not provide for them. Included in the meeting packet was a letter to Stephen King and Todd Cronin inviting them to attend the

Recreation Commission meeting on September 18, 2017 to introduce them, as they have both expressed an interest in serving on the Recreation Commission.

- **Recreation Area Improvements**

Included in the meeting packet was a draft request for bids by Cory Belden for the installation of a portion of under drain on the Ralph Morang Memorial Field. Lee Arthur indicated that the public notice needs to be written and the bid package sent out. Joe Persechino asked about notifying companies like “Bid Clerk” who supply information to the industry. Lee Arthur noted that those companies usually pull information from the web and newspaper. The drainage plan was discussed and it was noted that the guardrail and fence request for proposals needs to be published.

- **2018 Recreation Budget**

The 2018 Recreation Budget will be available for the next Recreation Commission Meeting. It was discussed that it would include funds for a recreation area land use master plan, identified as a priority by the recreation needs assessment committee.

F. New Business

- **Rye After School Program Space**

In July the Rye School Board voted to house the SAU 50 Preschool Program at Rye Elementary. The program was previously held in Greenland; however the Greenland School is at capacity and there is no space for the program. As a result the principal at Rye Elementary had to reassign classroom space in order to accommodate the program. The preschool program was moved to the occupational therapy room, the occupational therapy room was moved to the after school program grades 3-5 room and the ESL teacher that shared that room was moved to the after school program K-5 room. Resulting in less space for the after school program.

It was noted that it was previously determined that the minimum space needed to run the after school program was one dedicated classroom (not shared) that could be used by the school during the day and one shared space. Rooms that are shared with teachers have space and other limitations. The after school program is compromised by having to share the second room. However, the school is not obligated to provide space. Concerns have been expressed in the past about the grades 3-5 room, because it has not been able to be set-up like the main room because it is shared.

Lee Arthur met with Suzanne Lull to discuss the space. She asked if the if the ESL teacher could have their belongings in the occupational therapy room but still use the afterschool program K-5 room during the day. However, that was not an option.

The Recreation Commission reviewed a picture of occupational therapy room with equipment. Lee Arthur indicated that it is inappropriate to put 20-25 participants in the space. They can't touch the classroom equipment and materials; there is minimal space for program resources, and no space for play. Pointing out that the After School Program's use of a classroom is different than teachers during the school day. She indicated that the principal has been great, but in this circumstance has to put education

first.

Lee Arthur noted that a quality program can't be delivered in the space provided as there are significant limitations. It was acknowledged that the gymnasium is used frequently by the PTA and other programming. It was discussed that alternate space needs to be identified. Lee Arthur mentioned that Gregg Mikolaities suggested contacting the superintendent about space at Rye Junior High because the population has dropped significantly. The option of moving the program to the junior high was discussed. Lee Arthur said that she did contact the superintendent and he indicated that he would speak with both principals and contact her on Wednesday.

It was mentioned that the program numbers could be limited. There was a discussion regarding busing if the program was off site. The option of moving part of the program was discussed. If part of the program was moved, siblings would be split and parents would need to pick participants at two different locations. Limiting participation affects the program operations and staffing levels. The only space that Rye Recreation has is the recreation house and there is a playground at the site. Rye Congregational Church was identified as a potential location as well as the old trolley barn. Lee Arthur indicated that the school does not charge Rye Recreation. Joe Persechino pointed out that the participants are all from Rye.

Currently there are 29 participants in grades K-2 registered in the After School Program and 22 participants in grades 3-5, with up to 10 that have not signed up yet. It was noted that the program serves 20% of the Rye Elementary School population. If the program was moved from Rye Elementary School, participants would not be able to participate in PTA after school programming. It was noted that the transition off site may be better for the grades 3-5 participants (providing a change) and if hosted at Rye Junior High the older grades serviced could possibly change to 4-6. Brett Mulvey mentioned that there is a large area underneath the gymnasium at Rye Junior High that would be ideal.

Everyone was requested to brainstorm solutions. Joe Persechino mentioned that this situation enhances the importance to upgrade the buildings at the Recreation Area to have a fall back plan. Cory Belden noted that there is a commitment to operate the program this year, but over the course of the year it needs to be decided if Rye Recreation can continue to offer it or the school may take it over. Brett Mulvey pointed out that the PTA can't operate the program as it falls outside their charter. Commercial space and placing a modular at Rye Elementary were also discussed as options.

The Recreation Commissioners agreed to wait until Wednesday for the superintendent's response. Lee Arthur would meet with Gregg Mikolaities and Joe Persechino Wednesday evening and discuss next steps. It was noted that it is just an unfortunate situation and that the school board members were not aware of the implications.

- **Rye Recreation Fall Soccer**

There was a request from a parent that has a child in the 4 year old group and kindergarten group to have his 4 year old move up to the kindergarten group because he

wanted to coach both age groups but they are held at the same time. It was discussed that everyone needed to be treated the same, that the soccer schedule could be changed so that there was no overlap but it would be a longer day for families, the coaching levels were reviewed, and that parents do sign-up to assist both teams and they split their time. It was decided not to change the policy to allow the child to play up.

- **Program Updates**

Included in the meeting packet was an e-mail from Steven Borne indicating that he had read the prior Recreation Commission Minutes and wanted to provide information regarding Portsmouth Flag Football. Portsmouth offers several co-ed divisions for athletes 5 to 10. Girl and boy specific teams are offered for athlete's ages 11 to 14. If there are not enough athletes to field a team they will be paired with Hampton.

Active, Alive and Over 55 Club programming is underway. A few additional trips have been added as well as requesting to utilize the Senior Serve Van for three specific trips (The Currier Museum of Art, Ogunquit Museum of American Art, and the Peabody Essex Museum). A local travel group (Prime Time Club) has disbanded and it is hoped to attract their prior membership.

Lee Arthur reported that Leif Honda had asked if it was ok to put up a snack tent during travel soccer games. It was discussed that it would be a good idea. Lee Arthur said that they could store the tent and supplies in the recreation snack shack. The Recreation Area snack shacks were discussed. Brett Mulvey said that Rye Softball had placed a shed at Rye Elementary and that they may want to put a shed at the Recreation Area. Lee Arthur would contact Leif Honda.

The program planning for the summer program was included in the meeting packet. Lee Arthur indicated that the program offered is labor intensive and expensive and wasn't sure it was worth the return. It was discussed that the cost of the After School and Summer Program are lower than competitors. Joe Persechino asked how much part-time staffs are paid. Lee Arthur noted \$13.25 per hour. Maggie Duffy-Durkin indicated that it was significantly higher than another local camp.

G. Adjournment

*Motion was made by Maggie Duffy-Durkin to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.
Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.*