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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 30, 2019

Rye Recreation Office
55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH
6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Stephen King, Gregg Mikolaities, Brett Mulvey, Joe Persechino, Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

Guest: Debra Crapo and Paula Tsetsilas, Rye School Board Members; and Skyler and Sandy Mikolaities.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Motion was made by Stephen King to take the School Board Report out of order. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Motion carried.

III. School Board Report

Paula Tsetsilas indicated that the School Board was interested in hearing how the transition of fifth grade students to the junior high has affected the after school program, now that there are two dedicated rooms. Debra Crapo and Paula Tsetsilas have been identified as the School Board Representatives to the Recreation Commission and will attend every second meeting. By having two dedicated class rooms the program can now accept up to fifty participants instead of forty and they have more space to play in an environment that is less restricted (where they can touch everything). The program was full with a waiting list at the beginning of the year, however after changes and adjustments there is currently space available. The present number of participants per day is: Monday 46; Tuesday 45; Wednesday 48; Thursday 44 and Friday 31. It was noted that four of the six fifth graders that initially registered for the program withdrew. There would be a current wait list if the rooms were not dedicated.

Gregg Mikolaities indicated that the Memorandum of Understanding was only for one year and the renewal is based on the upcoming year school enrolments, he asked when the School Board knows those numbers. Paula Tsetsilas said that it is very difficult to

determine the number of kindergarten enrolments each year. However, they are starting kindergarten registrations in January instead of March next year.

Debra Crapo pointed out that there has been a significant drop in births across the country. Gregg Mikolaities indicated that there was an interesting article in the NH Business Review by Russ Tebo of Applied Economic Research regarding the decline and that there is .31 children per household in New Hampshire. It was discussed that there are two housing developments going in the vicinity of Washington Road and Route 1. Each will have some low income housing that may attract families with school aged children. The current enrolment at the elementary school is 212. It was mentioned that after school program enrollment is affected more by the economic environment than declining demographics. The four year old soccer registrations in 2019 were half of what they were in 2018. It was discussed if there was a correlation between those numbers and kindergarten enrolments.

Paula Tssetsilas asked the status of the middle school drop in program. It was noted that the Recreation Commission reviewed the lease last month and returned it to the Rye Congregational Church with comments. It is hoped that the space would be available for use by the first of January; however time is needed for the fit-up. Debra Crapo indicated that she is familiar with another community's senior center and indicated her support. Lee Arthur mentioned that the Kittery Community Center just opened a teen lounge for 6-12 graders that is open 2:30-6:00 p.m., M-F.

Paula Tssetsilas said during the process of conducting the school use feasibility study there was a discussion regarding cross generational programming. That could be conducted in the lower class rooms at the elementary school when not being used for the after school program. A senior reading buddies program was discussed (whether the seniors would go to the school or be bused to the church). It was noted that the focus should be on getting the space at the church up and going first. It was noted that it has been extremely difficult to acquire qualified help.

Debra Crapo mentioned that the junior high was implementing a program where students could earn points (incentive) for volunteering. The signed Memorandum of Understanding for the 2019-2020 was included in the meeting packet.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of July 1 and September 9, 2019.

The meeting minutes of July 1, 2019 were reviewed.

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2019. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Stephen King abstained. Motion carried.

The meeting minutes of September 9, 2019 were reviewed.

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2019. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Stephen King abstained. Motion carried.

V. Correspondence

Financial Reports

The financial reports dated September 19, 2019 were reviewed. The Recreation General Fund Budget had \$196,915.41 expended and 34.63% left; the Recreation Revolving Fund Budget had \$130,816.21 expended and 46.61% left; the Patriotic Purposes Budget has \$7,058.43 expended and 34.03% left. The facility cost expended accounts for \$2,500 to Rye Elementary for the After School Program and \$1,075 to Rye Congregational Church for the Active and Alive and Over 55 Club Program.

VI. Old Business

Recreation Multi-Purpose Storage Facility Update

The Recreation Commission was asked what color they would like the doors to be painted on the Recreation Multi-Purpose Storage Facility and they indicated white. It was noted that the inside electrical work would be completed next and that the framing had been changed as requested, other than the section of wall in the garage that needs to be taken down. It will be taken down at a later date. There were questions as to when the garage door would be installed. Lee Arthur noted that she would speak with the contractor.

Eagle Scout Project – Skyler Mikolaities Update

Skyler Mikolaities updated the Recreation Commission on his Eagle Scout Project to install a kiosk at the Recreation Area. He reviewed the location and indicated that he would need electricity and water for the installation. It was noted that there was a temporary electrical service onsite and the Recreation House has an outside water spout. It was indicated that three flyer boxes were preferred and a combination lock. The Recreation Commission reviewed pictures included in the meeting packet and the rest room signs were discussed. The installation will take place on Sunday, October 6, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m., with assistance from other scouts and friends. The project was funded by the proceeds of a car wash (\$420.00), a donation from Lowes and discounted supplies from Ricci Lumber.

Recreation Congregational Church Space Update

The changes made to the draft lease at the last Recreation Commission Meeting were provided to the Rye Congregational Church Council. The next step is for designates from the church to meet with Gregg Mikolaities and Lee Arthur to discuss cost and other details.

CIP Submission

The 2020-2025 CIP Submission was reviewed. It was noted that a project update on the storage facility was included and a request to construct new public restrooms. The

request of \$25,000 for a building assessment was not submitted. It was discussed that the cost would be less and it would be better positioned in capital outlay. Gregg Mikolaities pointed out that when the building is completed there should be a ribbon cutting ceremony and noted that the building cost was \$82.42 per square foot. Lee Arthur indicated that she attended a meeting of the CIP Committee to explain the Recreation Commissions Submission.

Other

The Recreation Area Master Plan (land survey) status was discussed as well as requesting receipt of full size plans and information. Lee Arthur noted that she would check with the surveyor to see where things stand.

VII. New Business

2020 Budget

The proposed 2020 Budget was reviewed. It was noted that the Recreation and Recreation Revolving Salary Lines were increased due to anticipated 2% cola and the Programs Supervisor and Administration and Programs Assistant being moved to top of grade which included a significant wage increase. It was discussed that it is difficult to anticipate the Recreation Revolving Budget expenditures because it relates to program participation. Therefore, it is important to appropriate enough funds for programming and adjust in accordance with revenue receive. It was noted that there is an anticipated increase in summer program participation due to the availability of online registration and the acceptance of credit cards.

It was discussed placing funds in the budget to hire a qualified professional to work 32 hours a week focusing on the multi-generational initiatives planned for the space at the church as well as other duties. The cost would be split between the Recreation and Recreation Revolving Budget.

Program Updates

The first week of the summer camp program was full with 40 children and participation numbers for the remainder of the camp weeks were up significantly over the prior year. This could be attributed to changes in the program format (First two weeks at the New Castle Facility and having two weeks that have trips).

Other

The Board of Selectmen has established a committee to identify possible locations for a cell tower, focusing on land owned by the Town. Lee Arthur was contacted by committee chair Howard Kalet who asked about possible locations at the Recreation Area. He pointed out that they would need a 50x50 foot accessible area. The selectmen are trying to be proactive and identify locations in advance of request. There was a discussion on whether recreation would receive the proceeds, the height and other requirements. It was discussed that the Outer Marker Area could be a possible location other than it is deeded for recreation purposes. Lee Arthur indicated that she would be

providing him information on the area on Friday and recommend that he attends the next Recreation Commission Meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

*Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.
Seconded by Joe Persechino. Motion carried.*

**These are draft minutes. Please refer to the minutes of the next meeting for approvals/corrections.*