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**RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, March 12, 2018**  
**Rye Recreation Office**  
**55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Gregg Mikolaities, Chairman, Cory Belden, Todd Cronin, Stephen King, Joe Persechino, Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

**Guest:** Georgina Saravia

**A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**C. Approval of Minutes**

- **Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2018.**

The meeting minutes of February 12, 2018 were reviewed.

*Motion was made by Cory Belden to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2018. Seconded by Stephen King. Motion carried.*

**D. Correspondence**

- **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for February 2018 were reviewed. The current year expenditures were \$35,697.81 for the Recreation Budget and \$32,143.58 for the Recreation Revolving Fund Budget. The Youth Recreational Athletics Funds had a balance of \$83,551.12 on January 31, 2018. Lee Arthur indicated that the financial reports do not include the budgeted amount until after the town vote.

- **Memorandum regarding Recreation Commission Member Re-appointments**

Included in the meeting packet was a memorandum from Janice Ireland requesting notification of member re-appointments and new appointments prior to March 26, 2018.

## **E. Old Business**

- **Recreation Commission Positions**

It was noted that the terms of Gregg Mikolaities and Brett Mulvey expire on March 31, 2018. In the meeting packet was correspondence from each of them requesting to be re-appointed.

In addition, it was noted that there is also a vacancy on the Recreation Commission and a letter from Georgina Saravia expressing her interest in serving on the Recreation Commission was included in the meeting packet. Gregg Mikolaities asked Georgina to introduce herself. She is new to Rye, a physician at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, and wants to get more involved in the community. She has a lot of summer camp experience and has participated in various sport and recreational activities. Her interest is in organizing activities for adults.

*Motion was made by Stephen King to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Georgina Saravia be appointed to the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Todd Cronin. Motion carried.*

*Motion was made by Cory Belden to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Gregg Mikolaities be re-appointed to the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Gregg Mikolaities abstained. Motion carried.*

*Motion was made by Joe Persechino to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Brett Mulvey be re-appointed to the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Stephen King. Motion carried.*

- **2018 Recreation Budget Warrant Article Update**

Lee Arthur reported that she met with Mike Thiel. He pointed out at the deliberative session that he had recently built a structure for \$40,000. Included in the meeting packet were pictures of the structure and the contact information on the builder. The structure was different than what is proposed.

## **F. New Business**

- **Space Use Agreement 2018-2019**

Included in the meeting packet were the draft School Board Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2018. The minutes indicated that the potential next steps regarding school use was discussed. In regards to Rye Elementary School becoming K-4 grade and Rye Junior High becoming 5-8 grade and that it could be enacted for the 2019-2020 school year. It was also noted that the Greenland school is not close to capacity.

The current year Rye School Board and Rye Recreation Space Use Agreement was included in the meeting packet as well as a draft 2018-2019 agreement (the same document with just the dates updated).

It was noted that if the Recreation Commission wanted to change anything within the agreement they should notify the Rye School Board in writing. Gregg Mikolaities

requested the commissioners review the document and send their comments to Lee Arthur by next Monday.

The space allocated for the current year was discussed. It was debated that the key question is how much space is needed to operate a program to accommodate fifty students. What is sufficient space? How accessible is the space? How can it be utilized and what can be kept in the space?

The question was asked if the fifth grade moved to Rye Junior High could those students be bused back to Rye Elementary School for the after school program? It was noted that they could be bused back to RES; however, another option maybe a middle school program. It was discussed that if fifth grade moved to the junior high then the two lower class rooms at the elementary school could potentially be utilized for the after school program on a more permanent basis.

It was discussed whether finances play a role in acquiring school space. It was maintained that finances are not the issue; it is about the use of the space and availability. The SAU and School Board are not obligated to provide any space for the program. They are responsible for their own mandate and use the space available accordingly.

Stephen King pointed out that the School Board used to have a representative attend the Recreation Commission Meetings. There was a discussion about attending the school board meetings in order to improve communication regarding all usage. It was decided that quarterly representation would be pursued.

- **Middle School Programming**

Lee Arthur indicated that she met with the Rye Junior High Principal, Marie Soucy and has requested a meeting with the Rye Junior High Student Council in order to obtain feedback regarding middle school programming.

It was noted that there is a space on the third floor of Rye Congregational Church that has not been used in years and maybe available for middle school programming. The churches youth group previously used the space and, outside it being on the third floor, is ideal.

Marie Soucy felt that an unstructured program is needed. Lee Arthur mentioned that she is exploring a drop-in center that would be well supervised and another option was a youth group that would meet once a week and participate in a monthly excursion. It was discussed that finding staff to operate the program could be challenging as well as the feasibility of generating the funds to operate the program (staff and facility).

Lee Arthur indicated that she would like to offer something in the fall and is looking into what other communities offer. The pros and cons of space at the junior high were discussed. The liability associated with the program was also addressed in regards to attendance (signing in and out of the program). Lee Arthur noted that would have to be

looked into further. She also pointed out that the accessibility to transportation (small bus) would open up a lot of programming opportunities.

- **Program Updates**

Art in Bloom is scheduled for April 13-14, 2018 and the spring and summer programming information was included in the meeting packet. It was pointed out that the deadline for fall flag football is May 25, 2018 and that one person has registered for the program.

- **Other**

Gregg Mikolaities noted that he sent Lee Arthur the City of Portsmouth Request for Proposal Organic Turf Management Services. She is to acquire Shawn Crapo's opinion on the document. Joe Persechino requested that the document be sent to him. It was noted that the Town of Rye Turf Management and Mowing RFP would be on the agenda of the next Recreation Commission Meeting.

The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be Monday, April 2, 2018 in the court room at Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**G. Adjournment**

*Motion was made by Joe Persechino to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Seconded by Stephen King. Motion carried.*