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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 2, 2018
Rye Town Hall
10 Central Road, Rye, NH
6:00 p.m.

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

A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

C. Approval of Minutes

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

The meeting minutes of March 12, 2018 were reviewed.

Motion was made by Georgina Saravia to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2018. Seconded by Todd Cronin. Georgina Saravia and Brett Mulvey abstained. Motion carried.

Gregg Mikolaities indicated that the Recreation Commission needs to select a chairperson and vice-chairperson.

Motion was made by Stephen King to appoint Gregg Mikolaities as Recreation Commission Chairperson. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Georgina Saravia and Brett Mulvey abstained. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gregg Mikolaities to appoint Cory Belden as Recreation Commission Vice Chairperson. Seconded by Todd Cronin. Georgina Saravia and Brett Mulvey abstained. Motion carried.

D. Correspondence

- **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for March 2018 were reviewed. There is 81.08% left in the Recreation Budget, 78.51% left in Recreation Revolving Fund Budget and 100% left in

the Patriotic Purposes Budget. In addition, there is \$10,000 allocated for an existing conditions plan under recreation revolving capital outlay. It was noted that there was \$150,000 appropriated for the multi-use storage facility; however, there was no back-up (paper work) provided indicating the appropriation. Lee Arthur indicated that she would request back-up (paper work) from the finance administrator. The Youth Recreational Athletics Funds had a balance of \$83,551.12 on January 31, 2018. It was discussed that donations are deposited into the Youth Recreational Athletics Fund.

- **E-mail from Leif Honda to Lee Arthur regarding Athletics in Rye Public Schools**
The e-mail from Leif Honda to Lee Arthur regarding Athletics in Rye Public Schools was reviewed. It was discussed that Leif Honda is trying to improve junior high athletics by building continuity between all the organizations within the community and is looking for individuals to attend a meeting to discuss the issues. In his e-mail he also expressed the need to better coordinate the community resources (gymnasiums, classrooms, and fields). The number of participants in the community playing sports was discussed as well as junior high sport programs. Brett Mulvey and Todd Cronin volunteered to be a contact.
- **Rye Recreation Certification of Background Checks Application**
Included in the meeting packet was Rye Recreation Certification of Background Checks Application to the State of NH.
- **Youth Skill Camps Operating in New Hampshire**
Included in the meeting packet was a list of Youth Skill Camps Operating in New Hampshire that included Rye Recreation. Rye Little League, Seacoast Lacrosse and Rye Soccer Association are not listed and still need to make application.
- **Seacoast Lacrosse Club Rye Recreation Fields Use Application**
Included in the packet was Seacoast Lacrosse Club Rye Recreation Fields Use Application. It was noted that their proof of NH DES Certification of Background Checks was not included.

Motion was made by Corey Belden to approve Seacoast Lacrosse Club Rye Recreation Fields Use Application pending proof of NH DES Certification of Background Checks. Seconded by Joe Persechino. Georgina Saravia and Brett Mulvey abstained. Motion carried.

It was noted that Seacoast Lacrosse has request the use of the Ralph Morang Multi-purpose Fields, Monday-Friday from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

- **E-mail from Shawn Crapo regarding Rye Recreation Field Opening Status**
Included in the meeting packet was an e-mail from Shawn Crapo regarding the status of opening the Rye Recreation Fields. He indicated that the fields are not ready for use. Lee Arthur noted that Shawn Crapo had taken soil samples and submitted them for testing.

- **E-mail from Ray Hindle regarding Rye Little League Hosting District All-Star Tournament**

Included in the meeting packet was an e-mail from Ray Hindle indicating that Rye Little League will be hosting the District All-Star Tournament, July 21-22, 2018. It was noted that Chief Walsh was also part of the e-mail chain and that the main concern was parking. Chief Walsh indicated that he would send a letter to the residents of Recreation Road informing them of the event and notify the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen.

- **E-mail from Ray Hindle regarding Rye Little Start Date**

Included in the meeting packet was an e-mail from Ray Hindle indicating that he is preparing the Rye Little League's Field Use Application and hopes to have access to the fields on April 9, 2018. Rye Little League is prepared to look after the turf maintenance for the Flash Jenness Memorial Baseball Field.

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to approve Rye Little League's Recreation Fields Use Application pending receipt of the fully completed and signed Recreation Fields Use Application; proof of NH DES Certification of Background Checks; and certificate of insurance. Seconded by Stephen King. Georgina Saravia and Brett Mulvey abstained. Motion carried.

Lee Arthur replied to Ray Hindle's e-mail indicating that the youth skills camp application needs to be submitted to the state and went over the management program for the fields.

E. New Business

- **Recreation Commission Sub-committees**

Gregg Mikolaities pointed out that he had sent out an e-mail (included in the meeting packet) regarding setting up committees to assist with two initiatives (school /programming and building).

There was a discussion about how many people would be on each committee and also the delegation of task. The decision making process, authorization and formalization of the groups were also discussed. Lee Arthur indicated that she would look into what is allowable.

School/programming working group (Todd Cronin, Brett Mulvey, and Georgina Saravia)
Building working group (Gregg Mikolaities, Cory Belden, Joe Persechino and Stephen King).

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to form two working groups that will make recommendations to the Recreation Commission. One being the school/programming working group (Todd Cronin, Brett Mulvey, and Georgina Saravia) and the second being the building working group (Gregg Mikolaities, Cory Belden, Joe Persechino and Stephen King). Seconded by Cory Belden. Georgina Saravia and Brett Mulvey abstained. Motion carried.

F. Old Business

- **Space Use Agreement 2018-2019**

Included in the meeting packet was an e-mail from Stephen King with comments and edits to the current space use agreement between Rye Recreation and the Rye School Board. He had mentioned that it seemed to him that Rye Recreation was at odds with the PTA regarding program conflicts. Lee Arthur noted that she did not think that this was the case because they are two very separate programs and Rye Recreation accommodates those students that participate in the PTA programs. There was a discussion whether the PTA supports the after school program and it was noted that it was thought so, but perhaps it was not formalized.

It was pointed out that research has proven that after school programs have value to the education process, not only fulfilling the needs of the participant's parents. The memorandum of understanding was drawn up by attorneys and Stephen King has made semantical changes in order to make the document easier to read and understand. The space use committee mentioned in the document is no longer a working committee and the reference needs to be replaced. The space requested needs to be better defined (designated space that the school has access to during the day). It is important to understand shared space and how much space is available for program equipment and participants to play. A classroom with desks, with no after school program equipment, where participants can not touch anything is not a good environment for an after school program. Best practices regarding the amount of space needed for each participant was discussed and it was noted the space previously used is significantly less. It is important to consider other aspects regarding shared space including problems that can occur if school staff/teachers are in the space and as a result in program.

It was discussed that the space assigned needs to be evaluated by designated members of the Rye School Board and Rye Recreation Commission in the absence of the space use committee. It was pointed out that additional space needed for participants to do their homework was not needed until 3:30 p.m.; the current document has 2:45 p.m. In addition, payment of the \$1,500 regarding the School Liaison needs to be clarified. Lee Arthur noted that she will clarify the \$1,500 payment with Amy Ransom from SAU 50.

Gregg Mikolaities suggested having quarterly representation at Rye School Board Meetings to increase communication. The ideal number of spaces to have available in the after school program was debated and it was suggested that the goal is to provide space for 50 students. Brett Mulvey suggested defining how many students could be accommodated in a designated space and a shared space, because more than two rooms could be available. The need to accommodate even more students could be needed if the program accepted students one day a week. It was discussed that a designated space can accommodate 25 students and shared 15. Brett Mulvey asked if outdoor program storage was needed and Lee Arthur indicated that there was no need.

- **Middle School Programing**

Lee Arthur reported that she met with the Rye Junior High Student Council and that they indicated that there was a need for a space where students can hang out. She mentioned

that there is space on the third floor of Rye Congregational Church that would be conducive to such a program. However, the church would need to be formally approached. The program hours, times and cost were discussed. It was decided to approach the church about offering the program a couple days a week.

- **Multi-Purpose Recreation Storage Facility, Recreation Area Existing Conditions Master Plan, and Recreation Area New Public Restrooms**

Lee Arthur mentioned that she had noticed that James Vera was conducting work in the Town Forest and that she had e-mailed Sally King to find out his cost and what he had surveyed. At the time of the meeting she had not heard back from Sally King. Gregg Mikolaities asked Cory Belden if he could contact James Vera regarding the cost to survey a section of the recreation area for the existing conditions plan.

G. New Business

- **Turf Management and Mowing Program RFP**

Included in the meeting packet was an article regarding turf maintenance in Portsmouth, for informational purposes. It was noted that Shawn Crapo of Seaside Landscaping did take soil samples of the recreation fields. Two draft requests for proposals were included in the meeting packet, one that allows sub-contractors and one that does not. It was discussed that by allowing sub-contractors a better price may be able to be obtained as it allows for more flexibility. Added to both drafts was the right of the Town of Rye to make adjustments to the products used and other minor edits. It was decided to allow sub-contractors.

- **Program Updates**

Lee Arthur reported that she was working on Memorial Day, Art in Bloom, and the 4th of July Celebration. She requested assistance with the selection of the entertainment for the 4th of July and indicated that consideration is being giving to having an Elvis Show. Stephen King indicated that he would assist with the selection of entertainment.

- **Other**

Brett Mulvey asked about speaking to the Chief of Police regarding guns at the recreation area. Lee Arthur indicated that she did and he recommended not addressing the issue as it was complicated and that there are different laws to be considered. It was discussed that the school/programming working group would get together Monday, April 9, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at the Atlantic Grill and the building working group would get together Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 5:30 p.m. at Petey's.

The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be held Monday, May 14, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at the Recreation Office and the following meeting on Monday, June 4, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

H. Adjournment

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Seconded by Georgina Saravia. Georgina Saravia and Brett Mulvey abstained. Motion carried.