

MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

SEPTEMBER 29, 2014 – 3:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Councilor Martin Pepin, Chair
Marcel Hebert, Brian Tapscott, Jonathan McCallion

Administration/staff Present: City Manager Bob Belmore
Director of Planning/Development Services Dave Sharples
Recreation Supervisor Kristen Ducharme
City Clerk Diane DuBois

Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Motion was made by Councilor Hebert to approve the minutes of the 5/14/14 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON RECREATION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.

Recreation Supervisor Ducharme gave the following update:

Pee Wee Soccer:

- Started on Saturday, September 6th and will conclude on October 18th.
- This year we have a total of 52 participants which remained the same as 2013 participant numbers.
- The program costs \$45 for residents and \$55 for non-residents and runs for 6 sessions.

Community Walking Club:

- This program started on Monday, September 8th and will conclude on October 15th.
- This program has historically had low participant numbers so we will be researching various program ideas to incorporate for this age group. (Generally seniors participate.)
- The program is free and held on a drop-in basis on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9:30 at the Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

PROJECT UPDATES

Willand Pond:

- Three “No Hunting” signs have been installed at Willand Pond. One sign is in the parking area on the Somersworth side, one is in the middle of the trail at an intersection, and the last is located at the trailhead near the Dover side.

- We didn't place one at the boat launch area in Dover since that is not in Somersworth. Dover Recreation has been notified of the sign postings.

Noble Pines Park:

- The old backstop has been removed and replaced by GC/AAA Fencing.
- A section of fence along the third base side of the baseball field that was in a state of disrepair has been removed.
- The Splash Pad was set to close on Monday, September 2nd but remained open until September 8th due to above normal temperatures. The Splash Pad has since been closed and all features have been removed and stored.

Ash Street Park:

- A site visit was held with the Recreation Dept. staff and Nate Mears from the DPW to go over the park plan. It has been noted that there are minor grade challenges along the Ash Street sidewalk that is in very poor condition. Nate Mears pointed out it may be prudent to reconstruct the 100' portion of sidewalk along Ash Street to allow grading issues to be resolved.
- Shawn McLean from the DPW informed Dave Sharples verbally that the materials for reconstructing the sidewalk would be \$1,000-\$2,000.

Park CIP:

- The Recreation Dept. is in the process of developing a CIP to include various projects and park upgrades in all of our parks. The CIP will help organize the priority of projects and will serve as an ongoing maintenance list for the Department.

Director Sharples indicated we still have funds from the Housing Authority that should cover the costs of what we want to do on Ash Street. Manager Belmore stated they will meet with DPW and have a site visit.

Councilor McCallion commented they had someone at the Mayor's Forum asking what was going to be done with the Ash Street Park.

Manager Belmore said that pending any Committee member objections he would be approving "early bird" fees for recreation programs. He asked Kristen to explain.

Supervisor Ducharme highlighted the benefits of having an "early bird" fee for recreation programs as follows:

- Having an "early bird" fee rather than a late fee deadline will encourage parents to register their child for programs in advance rather than waiting until the day of a deadline.
- Ensure that all volunteer coaches are in place and have completed the background check prior to the start of programs.
- Allow sufficient time for ordering t-shirts and eliminate the costs for rushed t-shirt orders.
- Easier program coordination and additional planning time will help warrant the success of our programs.
- Coaches will receive team rosters in advance rather than the morning of a program start.

- Aid with scheduling of games and organizing the use of our limited gym time.
- Maximize participant numbers by marketing the program in advance and allowing a longer registration period.

Supervisor Ducharme said that other towns are presently doing this. It works better if people feel they are getting a deal rather than getting a late fee.

Manager Belmore commented that our program fees are very competitive with other towns.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Councilor McCallion expressed his feeling that the city programs and school programs should get together when it comes to fundraising. He would like to urge some kind of joint organization that everyone would benefit from. Maybe a board would work, consisting of a representative from each team that would be in charge of all fund raising events. Instead of having separate fund raising events for each team, there would be joint fund raising events that would benefit everybody.

Manager Belmore said he would speak to Superintendent Mosca about this idea. He will also ask her if she sees any advantage in the city and school combining efforts. Perhaps she could talk to the Athletic Director to see if she has any ideas about doing something like this or if she would like to talk about a combined board.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Tapscott moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert and passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk