

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
September 9, 2014
MINUTES

Call to Order

6:00pm: Chairman Shute called the meeting to order

Present: Jeff Shute, Chairman; Julie DeCosta, Ken Heckman, Ernie Robert, and Melissa Robertson Members

Excused: Amy Harrington and Jack Hutchinson, Members

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director; Brian Layton, Citizen

Minutes of August 2014

Motion: M. Robertson moves the minutes as written

Second: E. Robert

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Citizens Comments None

Commission Vacancy

Local resident Brian Layton was introduced to the Commission and expressed his interest in serving with the group. Chairman Shute will submit his formal letter of resignation with the intent to then stay on with the group as the Select Board Representative. The Commission agreed to recommend Brian to the Select Board for appointment, J. Manzi will work with Town Administrator Michael Wright to sort out any paperwork formalities.

Old Home Day Recap

J. Manzi was happy to report that the overall feel of Old Home Day was friendly, cooperative and helpful. There were 63 participants in the Road Race and the Chicken BBQ community participation was fantastic. J. DeCosta commented that the line for the BBQ may need to be re-worked, the idea to have two lines accessing food was great, but the execution can be improved. It was suggested that next year cones and caution tape be used to create a winding line so that those waiting aren't backing up near the charcoal pits.

Members agreed that they may want to reconsider the parade next year. Perhaps the event would be better if it were held on a bi-annual rotation. M. Robertson commented that some of the schedule was tight and prohibited her from photographing all the activities. K. Heckman suggested that next year they solicit attendees to share their own privately taken pictures. M. Robertson shared that several people have requested that the Kids Bike Race be brought back and members agreed that events such as the Road Race, Ice Cream Sundaes and a Bike Race work best when a Citizen steps up to take control of that specific niche of planning and promoting.

In all expenses for the event totaled \$6,700 with \$3,800 in offsetting revenue brought in. The Department has not yet received a check from the Fair Association toward the costs of the Fire Works. The revenue figure of \$3,800 included the \$1,100 accessed from the outstanding Escrow account and approximately \$400 from t shirt sales. J. Manzi will get thank you cards out from the Commission to everyone who helped with the day.

Program Updates

A new yoga program was launched last night with April Purinton instructing, there were seven attendees and she will host another session tomorrow for adults and children. J. Manzi commented that the volume of these types of programs in surrounding Towns seems to be very high lately and he hopes for strong participation levels.

The After School program has grown past 100 registered children so that they are currently working with a waiting list. There seems to have been a population explosion in the younger grades, J. Manzi invited all members of the Commission to come by and observe the Program in action if they are able.

Family feedback from Youth Soccer has thus far been excellent. The Opening Day Jamboree was well run, all 14 teams had pictures taken and there were no real uniform issues.

The Tail Gate Trick or Treat is again scheduled for the last Sunday in October, falling on the 26th this year. J. Manzi is

waiting on the final OK from the Fairgrounds before making a formal announcement. The only change from last year's program that he foresees is to request an increased Police presence to monitor parking. The goal is to ensure that everyone parking is coming to participate in the full spirit of the event, including handing out candy. M. Robertson passed along feedback she had received at last year's event including one citizen's thought that only cars with Deerfield Dump stickers be allowed in. Other suggestions included a desire to have hot concessions available such as hot cider, coffee, donuts etc. J. Manzi will pass along the concession idea to the Playground Fundraising Committee. All agreed that limiting participation to Deerfield residents only is not something they care to do at this time so long as there is a clear expectation to bring candy and park within the allotted space. J. Manzi will craft an event flyer and speak with the Police Department in the coming days.

The Red Sox bus trip was held this past Sunday, attendees had a great time. The trip did not sell out. J. Manzi donated a four pack of tickets to the Playground Fundraiser Project for them to raffle off and offered other tickets to local sponsors and donors as a "Thank You" for their support of the Department and its programs.

2015 Budget Update

The 2015 budget will go before the Board of Selectmen on September 22nd. J. Manzi will keep the Commission apprised of any feedback he receives.

Other Business

The Fairgrounds Project spearheaded by Jack Hutchinson is scheduled to take place this Saturday. Ernie, Amy and Julie will be in attendance along with a dozen or so other volunteers to set out mums around the fairgrounds. J. Manzi thanked everyone for their help, noting that it will result in a donation to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Chairman Shute has mentioned the idea of a Goal Keepers clinic to his son and Tyler has agreed to help. J. Manzi and J. Shute will coordinate with each other to identify a Tuesday or Thursday in the coming weeks to hold that event.

K. Heckman would like to see the Commission work to draft a plan for field improvement in the coming weeks and felt it would be helpful to set a deadline. J. Manzi agreed that he would like to see something brought forward by October. He and Ken will work to draft a preliminary plan document in the coming weeks.

M. Robertson asked that the Department check with Mark Young and the Highway Department to see about having some of the overgrown Sumac trees removed at the Bicentennial Field.

B. Layton mentioned that he has received feedback recently on the crossing at the Ball Fields for those who park near the Cemetery. Everyone agreed that the area is dangerous. J. DeCosta suggested possibly putting out some sort of "Caution Kids Crossing" cone or signage and J. Shute informed that the State is doing a project to improve signage in Town and that this area may be one to be included in their scope of work.

Adjournment

Motion: E. Robert moves to adjourn the meeting of September 2014

Second: M. Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourns at 7:15p

Next Meeting Tuesday, October 14th @ 6:00pm

*The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission*