

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
January 16, 2014
MINUTES

Call to Order

6:30pm: J. Shute called the meeting to order

Present: J. Shute, Chairman; Julie DeCosta, Amy Harrington, Ken Heckman, Jack Hutchinson, Ernie Robert and Melissa Robertson Members

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director; Erika Almeida, Special Events Coordinator

Minutes of December 10, 2013

Motion: K. Heckman moves to approve the minutes as written

Second: E. Robert

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Minutes of December 18, 2013

Motion: K. Heckman moves to approve the minutes with edits presented by J. Hutchinson

Second: M. Robertson

All in Favor – Motion carries

Citizens Comments

E. Robert reminded the Commission that 2016 will be the 250th anniversary of the Town of Deerfield. Chairman Shute spoke that there will be a Warrant Article on the March Ballots to form a committee to organize events to recognize the milestone.

Old Home Day

E. Robert has received feedback that people are really missing the road race as a part of Old Home Day. M. Robertson agreed, she would like to see the road race brought back as well as kid's bike race. J. Manzi reiterated that the most pressing issue is to straighten out the fireworks details with the Fair Association. It needs to be decided who will be responsible for what amount of money. He asked that the sub-committee start communicating with the Fair Association so that if fundraising for the fireworks needs to be done they can get that organized as soon as possible. J. Hutchinson will ask David O'Neal to bring the item up with the Fair Association at their next meeting. J. Manzi added that they will want to think about how the road race is shaped, in years past it was offered to Coach Jim McKenzie as a fundraising opportunity for the cross country team. E. Robert agreed to approach Jim with the idea, J. Hutchinson expressed his opinion that any entry fees for the race should be kept very low.

Joe Stone Scholarship Update

J. DeCosta will be getting scholarship information and application materials out to the local High Schools, applications should be submitted by May 9th so that the recipient can be announced in the first week of June. J. Manzi will email members the current Scholarship Fund balance information following tonight's meeting.

Code of Conduct & Policies

E. Robert spoke to some of the edits he thought might be considered on the policies. He felt that the language discouraging the use of email could be stronger. J. Hutchinson feels that the Commission will just need to encourage people away from email use through phone calls and face to face resolution, there will always be a learning curve, but he doesn't foresee it being a major issue. The Commission agreed to change the wording to "It is recommended that important conversations not go through group email." J. Hutchinson will work that language into the Code.

E. Robert noted that he has gone onto the Lamprey River league websites to review their minimum player rules. There are provisions for each sport as to the minimum amount each child must play. J. Hutchinson spoke that he still feels strongly that kids should be getting equal playing time. The difference between Recreation league and AAU leagues was discussed. J. Hutchinson presented the Commission with several books on Positive Coaching and

described the Coaching Alliance organization. He has been doing some research into the Alliance and has been impressed with the individuals represented on its Board of Directors. This group advocates that the first time playing time should be associated with winning is at the High School Varsity level. The group puts on workshops at a cost of \$1,225 per workshop plus \$6/per attendee. This cost includes some extras, for example a magazine subscription for all participants. The next step will be to look into attending a session as a guest to see if it is something worth pursuing here locally. The Commission agreed that it would be a great resource and that they could invite other local Towns to participate. J. Manzi spoke that he currently does work sportsmanship and proactive coaching exposure into each season with the coaches. J. Hutchinson asked how the playing time attitude in Deerfield was compared to other Towns, K. Heckman responded that he finds it to be “no better, no worse”. J. Manzi added that following the rules for minimum playing time is different than accepting the philosophy of equal playing time and being on board with the culture the Commission is striving to achieve.

The final area E. Robert noted on the Code was the statement that Coaches, “will never pressure a child to play a sport and never recruit players to a specific team.” He feels that some kids need to be asked and that some coaches pride themselves on seeking people out to participate in the programs. K. Heckman agreed, but noted that it depends on the motivation behind the recruiting. J. Manzi suggested that the emphasis be placed on the word “pressure” and added that, whenever available, the conversation should be between the Coach and the Parent so that the family can present the invitation to the child as they deem appropriate. J. Hutchinson will work a qualifier into the statement such as, “While we all encourage kids to participate....” He will revise and forward to the Commission for comment. It was agreed that the Codes will be used beginning with the Travel Basketball and Spring Baseball/Softball teams.

J. Manzi updated the Commission that Coach Smart has set two training dates in early March. He will plan to attend so that he will be certified and able to conduct training for others.

Motion: K. Heckman moves to adopt the Code of Conducts as edited at tonight’s meeting

Second: M. Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Program Updates

E. Almeida updated the Commission that this year’s Winter Carnival will be held on Saturday, February 22nd. This is the Saturday preceding February vacation. They are still discussing whether there will be a Fireman’s dinner on Friday night. They plan to have the bonfire, tractor rides, sledding and football game again on Saturday. They are working to see if they can involve the Deerfield CHS Football Players and are planning to add a chili cook off to this year’s schedule. The snow sculpture will not be continued.

E. Almeida also spoke that Cookie Clubhouse started today, there were 6 kids in attendance and she expects that number to grow.

J. Manzi will be meeting in the coming weeks with the coaching candidate pool for the Travel Basketball 3, 4, and 5/6 divisions. He will be communicating the rules and desired approach to coaching and expects that Teams will be entered into the tournament “B” bracket wherever it is available. K. Heckman spoke that while travel is often perceived as the “next level” of play, he believes the equal playing time goal will be achievable and does not think the change will come as a surprise to or be an issue for the coaches.

The Before/After School programs are in full swing and they are closing in on 100 registrants since the start of the school year. Some days they have as many as 70 kids in attendance. The program is fully staffed and this week staff was trained in the non-crisis intervention. They have broken the kids up into clubs within the clubhouse based on interest.

Only two tickets remain for the Winter Blues Festival on February 8th. Boston Red Sox Bus Trip dates have been set for Sunday, June 1st and Sunday, September 7th, the cost will be \$55 and include a ticket in the lower bleacher section along with coach bus transportation. Parent’s Night Out will be on February 14th and there is a Parent/Child Valentines dance scheduled for February 15th.

Knitting with Diane has picked up in attendance numbers, and J. Manzi has been notified that Maggie and Jen will be leaving the Department to open their own studio. Amy Carlson has been asked to join them as well. Overall the

largest issue has been parking, J. Manzi suggested that if classes were to be pushed back to 6:00 or 6:30 that may help alleviate some of the congestion caused by After School pick-ups. They are currently looking for folks to step in and fill the void created when these instructors leave.

J. Manzi has been negotiating with Seacoast United Services for the services they can provide to the Soccer and Baseball programs. Their offering includes coach education, continued training, skills programs, summer camps, use of their facility in Epping for earlier evaluations and workshops.

New Business

E. Robert asked if going back to having a Youth Sports Director employed by the Department may alleviate some of the communication issues that come up. J. Manzi felt that bringing in outside services, such as Seacoast United, may address some of these issues, additionally, now that the Department is fully staffed and the After School Program has developed a rhythm he now has more time to spend with the communications/facilitator aspects of his job.

Adjournment

Motion: K. Heckman moves to adjourn the meeting of January 16, 2014

Second: E. Robert

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourns at 7:53p

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 11th @ 6:30pm

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