

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
March 12, 2014
MINUTES

Call to Order

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

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

Excused: Ken Heckman

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director

Minutes of January 16, 2014

The minutes from the January meeting were not received by J. Manzi – K. Libby will send and the Commission will review for vote at the April Meeting.

Citizens Comments None

Old Home Day

Citizens Traci Moorcroft and Jim McKenzie were in attendance to discuss the Old Home Day (OHD) Road Race along with Library Trustees Dee Jones and Mal Cameron. The date for the road race has been set for Saturday, August 16th which also coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Library Dedication. The Commission agreed that the goal for the Road Race is not to increase the size, but to bring it back to the schedule of OHD events, keeping it free and made up of local participants. E. Robert spoke that the route will be the same running from the Town Hall, up Church Street, turning right onto Meetinghouse Hill Rd and right onto Rt 43 back to the Town Hall. The hope is to draw in, with the help of Jim and Traci, community involvement, possibly the Cross Country team could participate and members could be showcased. J. McKenzie was happy to hear that the goal of the race is to keep it local and inexpensive. He has been disenchanted with the local road races of late, both with the cost to enter and the amount of money that is not being returned to the winning runners. E. Robert confirmed that there is typically no charge for the Police detail and J. DeCosta added that they typically keep the timing simple. T. Moorcroft suggested they might consider mirroring the Coe Brown race where kids are in charge of the water stops and runners vote for their favorite stop at the end of the race. J. DeCosta suggested finding a way to get lots of people along the route to cheer.

J. Hutchinson spoke that the first modern OHD was 35 years ago. One of his favorite quotes from the early event was "In Deerfield we don't buy our fun." He suggested the Committee could check with the Historical Society for some old scrapbook photos of early races. T. Moorcroft agreed to serve as Race Director for the event and J. McKenzie will get the Cross Country team involved.

M. Cameron provided some historical context from the July 28, 1914 dedication of the Library Building. The Trustees have been working on repairing the building, its external retaining walls, brick work, and chimney, to get it ready for the Anniversary. The Garden Club has assisted in work on the Friendship Garden behind the Library. There will be a book sale on the Saturday morning of OHD at the Library. The Trustees have been brainstorming ideas of ways to showcase the Library and Soldier's memorial, they plan to enter a float in the parade and have heard interest from the Garden Club and Community Church to do the same, the hope is to get the kids involved. A. Harrington suggested the float preparation would make a good summer project for the Summer Library Program.

The parade route was discussed, shortening or altering the route was suggested as typically most spectators gather on Church Street. J. Hutchinson suggested perhaps Sherburn Woods and/or the Church parking lot could be used to line up the floats. The Commission plans to continue the conversation at the April 8th meeting.

Joe Stone Scholarship Update

J. DeCosta confirmed that scholarship information has been put in the Communicator and on the Concord

Common Ap website, she will make sure that it is included in the Forum.. J. Manzi has received inquiries in the office. Applications are due May 9th.

Youth Coach Candidate Application

J. Manzi spoke that there had been some question around whether or not the Department should have social security numbers on its form for Youth Sports Volunteers, he has taken that field out of the Deerfield form, but it cannot be removed from the application for participation in Little League. The Little League application asks for individual's license number, social security number, etc. and the form is intended for anyone working around the kids, coaches, concession volunteers, umpires etc. J. Hutchinson suggested that the SSN might be collected on the Police Department's form for conducting background checks, he voiced his concern with the Department's responsibility for keeping the information secure once it is obtained, but that if it is on a Police document it is not under the ownership of Parks & Recreation. J. Manzi added that they are hoping there will be lots of overlap of coaches/volunteers between seasons so that if an individual is cleared through the Little League process they will then be set for the year.

J. Hutchinson asked whether a time had been scheduled to meet with the Baseball/Softball coaches to discuss the issue of Parks & Recreation philosophy and culture. J. Manzi responded that there will be a safety meeting and baseball clinic for coaches on Wednesday, April 2nd and suggested that may be the best time to review and discuss. J. Hutchinson stressed the importance of having the conversations and in keeping them in a public forum, he suggested the conversation may want to be opened up to parents and guardians at an alternate time.

Program Updates

Little League Update: J. Manzi updated the Commission that a new classification has been added to the Little League teams, they will now include A (6-7 year olds), AA (8-9 year olds), AAA (10-11) year olds and Majors (11-12 year olds). He spoke that the League meeting ran very smoothly and that all members of the Board are on the same page regarding philosophy and playing time. The league includes Candia, Raymond, Auburn, Deerfield and Nottingham.

Field Work: Chairman Shute asked about the field repairs, J. Manzi responded that, considering the change in Road Agent the Commission may want to think about holding off on the Hartford Brook repairs previously discussed. He thinks it would be wise to wait and see what the demand is, he is aware of some players moving into the Youngsville program, it may be best to leave Hartford Brook as a practice facility for the foreseeable future. He agreed they will need to address the drainage and other issues at Bicentennial soon. E. Robert updated that he has been waiting on a thaw to address the Electrical work at Bicentennial. He will be looking to get power and lights to the shed as well as get the batting cage running. A. Harrington volunteered her son and his friends to lend a hand with the digging.

Travel Basketball: J. Manzi updated that the travel basketball season is well underway and is going very well, the team is winning and losing together and he has been able to attend many of their games.

11th Annual Hoops Classic: The Deerfield Hoops Classic will be held March 20th – 31st. Jen Cox is heading the 3-4 team and Deb Treantafel is organizing the 5-6 team. They will be working to schedule concession and volunteer help. The primary jobs they are soliciting the Commission to help with are admittance, concessions and/or supplying baked goods. J. Manzi noted that the weekends and Monday are typically the time most needing of outside food donations. Weeknight games begin at 5p and finish around 8:30p, weekend volunteers would be looking at a 7:15a arrival.

Baseball/Softball Fundraising:

The Department has been trying to think of new ways to fundraise within the Baseball and Softball programs. These programs historically have lost money and the sponsorship and grant opportunities seem to have been tapped out. J. Manzi is looking into doing a family dance in the Spring and has been presented with the idea of selling cards for discounts online to various companies. The Board was comfortable with the concept and A. Harrington suggested setting team or individual sales goals as a way to motivate. J. Hutchinson asked whether cleaning the fairgrounds for compensation was something that was still able to be done; he will look into this option. J. Manzi added that they will still be expecting individuals to give of their time at Field Day.

Coach Smart Training

J. Manzi will be attending the Coach Smart course on Friday, March 14th. As a Certified Instructor he will then be able to pass the course forward to coaches.

Other Business

The Commission congratulated Chairman Shute on his being elected to the Board of Selectmen and J. Hutchinson for his being elected Town Moderator. Chairman Shute would hope to stay on with the Commission as the Select Board Representative. He will look into whether or not it would be appropriate for him to remain as Chair of the Commission and whether his change of title will open a Commission slot for a new member.

J. Manzi asked whether there had been any update on the Fireworks for Old Home Day. J. Hutchinson responded that he spoke with David O'Neal but that the Fair Association had not yet met. They will go forward under the assumption that the funding will be handled the same way as in 2013, the Commission will consider how it wants to cover the firework expense (through the budget or fundraising) and take a formal vote at a later time.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Hutchinson moves to adjourn the meeting of March 12, 2014

Second: E. Robert

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourns at 7:33p

Next Meeting Tuesday, April 8th @ 6:00pm

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