

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
April 8, 2014
MINUTES

Call to Order

6:00pm: J. Shute called the meeting to order

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

Excused: Ernie Robert

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director

Minutes of January 16, 2014

Motion: J. Hutchinson moves to approve the minutes as written

Second: J. DeCosta

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Citizens Comments None

Old Home Day

J. Hutchinson has been on contact with the Fair Association, because the use of the fairgrounds for demo purposes has been cut, the fireworks vendor used in 2013 is no longer available for this year. The Association indicated that they will make a contribution towards sponsoring the event, but did not specify an amount. J. Manzi has contacted Northstar Fireworks out of Vermont and booked the date, they have set an anticipated budget of \$4,000 and it will need to be discuss further how the Commission wants to fundraise. J. Hutchinson will get a better handle on the expectations of the Fair Association and report back.

Traci Moorcroft is actively working on the Road Race. She has created a flyer and has begun marketing the event in Town. The specific planning for Chicken and other Old Home Day programming will come later, J. Manzi has been working to get the word out to other organizations in town to get them involved. J. Hutchinson asked if any tax money was used for Old Home Day, to which J. Manzi answered no. The primary goals for this year's event will be to build the parade and bring back the road race. J. Manzi will discuss the parade particulars, namely the route, with Mark. Chairman Shute is speaking with local contacts about having some older model cars in the parade.

Joe Stone Scholarship Update

J. DeCosta confirmed that the scholarship information is on the FORUM website and in the communicator, J. Manzi has had several people take applications, but none have been submitted.

Program Updates

11th Annual Hoops Classic: The Deerfield Hoops Classic was a big success. J. Manzi thanked everyone who volunteered their time and efforts. He was particularly proud that it remains a Community-drive event done, "The right way." The positive tone of the event has given a nice boost to the volunteer base as the Department heads into Baseball and Softball season. K. Heckman added that attendees from other Towns complimented not only the Deerfield teams, but the program as a whole. Praise was given for how organized and pleasant the volunteers were and J. Manzi informed the Commission that he expects the event will net close to \$5,000.

Little League Update: J. Manzi updated the Commission that the player selection was held on Monday. Jim McKenzie will be coaching the Majors team and conversations have been held with all of the coaching staff to ensure that everyone is on the same page. There were close to a dozen parents interested in working with the Majors team and Jim will work to make sure everyone is involved in some capacity.

Field Work: J. Manzi has made introductions to Highway Agent Mark Young and hopes to discuss the field projects at the GBW Building and Bicentennial Field in the coming weeks. K. Heckman asked that some minor work to Hartford Brook be considered as well, even if just basic seeding of the trouble areas. Chairman Shute suggested that the Department do some soil sampling through the UNH program to get a recommendation on how to best improve the area. K. Heckman will work with J. Manzi to look into that process. The primary focus for this year will

be maintaining the investment at the GBW Building and Bicentennial Field.

Other Programming: The country Kickers program will restart tonight and Parks & Rec is close to finalizing additional programming in the Adult Fitness area.

Coach Smart Training & Sea Coast United

J. Hutchinson expressed his disappointment and concern with the adage used by Sea Coast United representatives that, "If you're not cheating, you're not trying..." Generally he felt that the Sea Coast individuals were supportive of the Department's philosophy, but wants to be clear that the statement was not representative of our approach. J. Manzi agreed that it was poor use of a cliché. Overall the Sea Coast evaluations went awesome. They looked at technique of players 7 to 11 years old and produced aggregate scores for each individual. There were generally no surprises. There had been some discussion during the Coaches meeting around the use of trick plays on the field. J. Hutchinson spoke that he finds this to fall dangerously close to bullying where the play will potentially result in the humiliation of a less alert player. J. Manzi will continue to stay on top of coaches with regards to best representing the philosophy of the program.

Hall of Fame Update

January 2015 has been identified for the next Hall of Fame induction. At that point, four years will have passed since the last ceremony. J. Hutchinson suggested the event would offer good tie in opportunities where recipients might be people who exemplify the positive approach to being with kids. J. Manzi will look at other organizations and their nomination materials and will solicit input from the community.

Other Business

Fundraising Opportunity

J. Hutchinson has spoke with the Fair Association about organizing clean up of the grounds as a fundraiser for Parks & Recreation and Dave O'Neal was receptive to the idea. Clean ups are done twice a year, in the Spring and in the Fall, the opportunity will be pursued more and Chairman Shute suggested a possible tie in to the Soccer programs in the Fall.

250th Anniversary

Additionally, J. Hutchinson is in charge of organizing a committee for the 250th anniversary of Deerfield. The event will be in 2016 and his initial thoughts are to ask various organizations to pull together a "History of Deerfield" showcasing their respective area, i.e. the Fair Association, the Historical Society, Parks & Recreation. The 200th anniversary was a massive four day event held at the fairgrounds. He will be seeking input and suggestions over the next several months. J. Manzi suggested that the event might replace Old Home Day for 2016. J. Hutchinson will look to speak with the Select Board to get their direction for the event and plans to meet with the membership of the Fair Association next month.

Open Commission Position

Chairman Shute reminded that there is an open position available on the Commission now that he is serving as the Select Board Representative. K. Heckman has been trying to think of individuals who may be a good fit and will ask Jim Deeley for suggestions. Members will spread the word and begin to gauge the interest of individuals identified.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Hutchinson moves to adjourn the meeting of April 8, 2014

Second: J. DeCosta

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourns at 7:00p

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 13th @ 6:00pm

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