

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
September 9, 2015
MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Present: Jeff Shute, Chairman; Amy Harrington, Jack Hutchinson, Ernie Robert and Melissa Robertson Members

Excused: Julie DeCosta, Ken Heckman, Jack Hutchinson and Brian Layton Members

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director

Minutes of August 2015

Motion: E. Robert moves the minutes as written

Second: M. Robertson

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

Citizens Comments

None

Old Home Day Review

J. Manzi reported that the 2015 Old Home Day was well attended, he thanked everyone for their help, especially the various community organizations who were involved. He felt all of the day's events ran smoothly, noting that the changing of dates for the fireworks resulted in some reduced attendance. Ice Cream sales were still strong and Joe will circulate the finances to the Commission that resulted in a deposit into the Joe Stone Scholarship fund. The \$2,000 from the Deerfield Fair Association toward the cost of fireworks has not yet been received, but J. Manzi will send them a "thank you" note along with an invoice and expects that money to come in.

J. Hutchinson offered feedback that the group should look at better staggering the donated food at the potluck dinner so that people at the end of the line are not left with just chicken. M. Robertson shared that one attendee questioned the \$5 cost of the meal with it being "potluck", Commission members responded that it is due to the potluck contributions that the full spread costs only \$5 per person with children eating free. M. Robertson commented that the road race was a tremendous success with over 60 participants from across the age spectrum. J. Manzi closed by saying that BINGO and the 3 on 3 basketball were a huge success, the only event that seemed to struggle was the Softball game, which he felt was due to conflicting events in the same time slot.

Hartford Brook Field Updates

J. Manzi spoke that the 5-6 Soccer levels have asked to move their games to the DCS fields, this change will open up Hartford Brook field space in order to move forward with the improvement projects. He has been referred to two local field development companies through the State's Recreation Association, Hillside Landscaping of Nottingham and Dave White & Sons of Bow. The next steps will be to begin checking the project's boxes, including getting blessing from the Board of Selectmen, notifying abutters, and marketing the plans to the community. J. Hutchinson suggested asking local contractors Averill or Jared Messina to serve as the resident expert and project facilitator. J. Manzi spoke of the importance of everyone getting on the same page as far as the message for the field's purpose.

J. Hutchinson updated that he is looking to get local contractors Averill, Young, Tordoff, Briggs and Messina together with John Tobey of the Fair Association to look redevelopment of the baseball diamond at the Fairgrounds. He offered that perhaps the Commission could leverage what is learned through that process at Hartford Brook. He hopes to have a meeting with the group on site before the 2015 Fair begins. A. Harrington

reported that J. Decosta had not yet been in contact with Mr. Averill and that she felt an onsite meeting would be the most appropriate next step.

Youth Sports Updates

J. Manzi updated that, with lots and lots of late signups there are over 135 signed up for the Fall Soccer program. Team photos and the jamboree are scheduled for this Saturday. The signups of coaches has been slow, Seacoast United is working with the coaching group one night a week.

Youth Baseball forms will be coming out soon. J. Manzi will plan to communicate clearly the intent of the Recreation vs. Travel programs and will be conscientious of keeping schedules and weekly time commitments in balance. Chairman Shute asked whether the new football program pulled down any of the Soccer numbers, J. Manzi responded no, that the numbers are as strong as they have been. He noted that there is a significant bubble of students at the K-1 level that will be coming up through.

Program Updates

J. Manzi reported that the After School Program is up and running averaging over 70 students per day with an overall roster of 96. There has been a change to the format of the program where there is now a "Study Lab" where attendance is optional at the decision of the family. Attendance at the Lab has averaged roughly 17 kids per day. Overall the kids are doing great. M. Robertson asked about staffing levels, J. Manzi responded that due to some departures he is currently spending a lot of his time "in the trenches". As a result, he is open to bringing in new staff.

J. Manzi spoke that the Town and Board of Selectmen has received the request for use of the Department's passenger van as was discussed previously. He reiterated his position that he is not in favor of the idea as he prefers to keep the Department's resources readily available within the programs it offers. J. Hutchinson expressed feedback that there may be a feeling developing that the School's accommodation of the Town's programs is not being reciprocated, specifically as relates to getting students who participate in after-school sports at the School transported to the Parks & Recreation After School Program. He asked that J. Manzi reach out to Cindy Hanson at the DCS to make a plan and ensure that levels of support between the Town and School's programs remain strong and balanced. J. Manzi noted that there is a struggle with the transportation as limited staff members are able to drive the van but agreed to touch base with Cindy. Chairman Shute spoke that the School Board will be at Monday's Select Board meeting to discuss the passenger van use, it was believed that the size of the magnet group likely exceeds the vans capacity.

2016 Parks & Recreation Budget

J. Manzi will present the proposed 2016 Parks & Recreation budget to the Select Board on Monday. The budgeted amount is the same as 2015 at \$54,956. This is comprised of 4 line items, J. Manzi's salary, a longevity award, Old Home Day, and Non-Event expenses.

250th Anniversary Updates

E. Robert spoke that 2016 events plan to kick off with a communal meal at the Deerfield Community Church. This will be a potluck format and they may plan to do 2 seatings as the capacity at the Church Hall is 150 and they hope to far exceed that number. Following the dinner will be a reading of the proclamation by Bob Kilham and a Contra Dance at the Town Hall. J. Hutchinson reported that the Church group, as well as the Fair Association have been fantastic to work with.

The opportunity for Commission participation will likely be with children's games during the July festivities. Other events that weekend will include a garden tour and buses doing historic tours of Town leaving from the Fairgrounds. There will be a parade running through the Fairgrounds along with a Variety Show. J. Hutchinson noted that so far, fundraising efforts have been great with over \$18,000 raised, and \$12,000-\$14,000 of that total coming from donations.

Joe Stone Scholarship Updates

It was noted that the next Coffeehouse to benefit the Joe Stone Scholarship will not be until the Fall of 2016, but J.

Manzi reported that Old Home Day ice cream sales netted \$521 to the fund.

Adjournment

Motion: E. Robert moves to adjourn the meeting of September 2015

Second: J. Hutchinson

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourns at 7:10p

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

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.

Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission