

# MOULTONBOROUGH RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## ADVISORY BOARD

### DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, January 7, 7:30 A.M. Recreation Department

Present: Becky Bryant, Al Hume, Harry Blood, Carla Taylor, Karin Nelson, Joanne Farnham, Donna Kuethe, Hillary Bride, Cynthia Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 7:30am.

The Last Meeting's Minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 1. By-Laws

Donna had printed out a draft for the proposed By-Laws. Upon review of the document, the group had one addition:

- Need to add in a phrase we had discussed at the last meeting regarding "excused absences". This goes in "Article 5".

There was a question as to whether we needed to include the particulars about our "alternate" members. Donna mentioned that she had obtained some clarification about the alternates:

If a regular member is missing at a meeting, the group will take a vote to designate one of the alternate members present to vote at that meeting.

We can amend the By Laws as needed, and the group felt that this document was a good basic one to begin with.

Harry moved to accept the Draft By Laws, with the one addition. Karin seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### 2. Recreation Director Report

- Youth basketball program's games are underway.
- Working hard to get everyone under the new TLC squared network- which means all volunteer need to have background checks; mandatory training sessions have taken place (and went well); and the manual has been adjusted/updated.
- Partnership with Meredith program- happening due to uneven numbers of teams in the program. We are working with their Bill Lamprey League, and have had to adopt a couple of their playing rules to make the programs match. Moultonborough has agreed to go to the 5 on 5 model for this year to comply with their League. Moultonborough will also have the boys' league use the larger size balls.
- Moultonborough will participate in the Lamprey League's end of season tournament.
- Several Moultonborough players are participating in the travel team out of Meredith.
- The skating rink is open and working.

- The Solstice celebration was great and well attended. Hillary counted 73 people at one point. This event is a “keeper”!
- The school vacation trip to Manchester did not have enough sign ups- due to complicated school cancellations prior to vacation.
- February Activities are being planned- including a trip to a Monarchs game on Feb. 22.
- Donna and Hillary are working on the Spring & Summer Brochure, and plan to have it ready by April. They will then have a Fall & Winter one done in the summer. Donna will be working on the budget to fold in this new 2 brochure/year plan.
- The Father-Daughter dance plan is in process and a matching lazer tag/imax Mother-Son event is also in the works. Looking at other ideas for these kinds of events.
- Donna explained that the Rec Dept. recently participated in “Every Child is Ours”, a group that adopts schools/communities in need. Donna worked with Harry to collect toys and Rec. Department t-shirts for Groveton. The kids there were so appreciative, they have said they will wear their Moultonborough t-shirts when playing games here.

### **3. Advisory Board**

Becky is finding that emailing the Town, Library, and Schools for advertising our meeting date/time is working.

### **Parent/Coach Communication:**

In response to a situation that occurred for youth basketball, where one team was not called by the coach as speedily as the other team, and did not begin practices at the same time, we reviewed the team selection process and challenges:

- The selection process is meant to balance the teams
- Players have numbers attached to their backs, and are evaluated as they complete various skill- based exercises. Numbers are intended to attempt to keep the evaluation “blind”, but in such a small town, this won’t always work as many parents, coaches, evaluators, know the children.
- Coaches have been involved in the selection process in the past, but this sometimes results in unbalanced teams.
- Some parents ask the Rec. Dept to address some special selection considerations such as: having their child on the same team as a friend for “shyness” factor or transportation issues, having child placed with a male or female coach, not placing a child on the same team as an identified other child due to potential conflicts, etc. Donna advises parents that in most cases they will take these things into consideration, but cannot make promises. Some types of requests are always honored.
- Coaches are asked to make their calls to their new team players the weekend following the selection.
- Some coaches wait until they have scheduled the first practice to make their calls.
- Can the Rec. dept create the schedule for practices? Donna reports that assigning times would probably be more trouble, since the various coaches’ schedules are crazy.

- Could the Rec. dept. be in charge of making the calls to team players to tell them what team they are on, then let the coaches call subsequently to advise players of the first practice time?
- Rec. Dept. has coaches' phone numbers to give parents as needed.

### **Suggested improved process:**

- Ask coaches to be a part of evaluating and rating players.
- Rec. Dept. then takes the evaluations and selects the teams
- Rec. Dept. then calls each player to tell him/her what team they are on. Tells players that their coach will be calling with the first practice date/time.
- Coaches are asked to schedule their first practice promptly. They make calls to each team member.

### **General Discussion:**

#### **Senior Needs:**

- Joanne advised the group that the Senior Needs Committee is not actively working right now, which poses a problem to our senior population. The structure that had been working and had achieved the recent feasibility study on the senior center issue, is not in place anymore.
- Donna mentioned that the senior yoga program is running, and that she and Hillary are looking at a bus company that could facilitate senior trips.
- Joanne is confident that many seniors want other kinds of programming too, such as computer and financial workshops.
- Donna cautioned us that even if a program is offered by a volunteer, which would not impact the Rec. Dept. budget, a program still has to be marketed and managed. The Rec. Dept. plate is full now, so adding new programs would be extremely difficult. A group discussion continued highlighting our job as a board to help brainstorm solutions for challenges like this, and identifying budget and administration constraints.

#### **Senior Needs Action Plan:**

- Donna will meet with Seniors Needs Committee chair, to see if she is still willing to work in that capacity.
- Donna will meet with Joanne, who is willing to help with collecting ideas from Seniors, making calls, or whatever is needed, and together, they will work on a plan.

#### **Assorted questions:**

1. Is there a possibility of having a bus go to Bretton Woods on Sundays when it's \$12?  
Donna responds- good idea- had been avoiding adding Sundays to the Rec. Dept. work schedule, but this would be a good idea to pursue.
2. Volleyball clinic- low interest- maybe scrap idea?
3. Is there a cleaning schedule for the skating rink?  
Hillary responds- every day between 9am and 1pm, but is hit or miss.  
Donna adds- the maintenance for the playground comes under and is controlled by the Town's building and ground division, not the Rec. Dept.

253-4160 Rec. Dept. newslines will have any pertinent rink info.

4. Would Monday night adult volleyball group be willing to adjust time or day in MA gym to give youth basketball more court time?

Sunday night is an available time for the space- and might be possible to figure out logistics.

Karin will email group (whose numbers are diminishing) and see what they think.

There was some hesitation to ask this group, which is the longest running adult rec. program in Moultonborough, to move their practice time. It is important to maintain a balanced approach in serving the entire Moultonborough community.

5. Is Red Hill Ski Area open?

Karin reports that the parking lot has been plowed, but the rope tow is broken. They are working on getting that fixed.

Groups can sled there, though the area is "members only" for insurance purposes. Any group can use it, if they are willing to take on insurance liability.

### **Youth Basketball Referee problem**

During the girls' 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball game last weekend, some fouls were not called by Rec. Dept. volunteer referees.

**Complaint:** Carla, as one team's coach, raised her concerns about the missed calls with the referees and Hillary several times during the game. Carla was not satisfied with the response, that the plan was to keep calls loose during this first game.

**Response:** Donna and Hillary identified issues, challenges, and outcomes from this event:

- Donna reminded us that this was Hillary's first full week of programs and her first basketball season with the rec. Dept.
- The Rec. Dept. is also in charge of supervising the building during programs.
- The Lamprey League training suggested that sometimes the best call is no call.
- Complaining about officials within earshot and during a game does not help the ongoing process.
- The two referees involved (one high school student, one college student) have indicated they do not want to ref again for us due to the criticism from parents and coaches at this game.
- These referees had experience both playing the game and reffing basketball, but not at this level before.
- The grievance process should be used when there is a disagreement like this. This gives all the people involved some time for cooling off, reflection, and working toward a problem solving approach.
- Hillary reports that she did not feel the game was out of control. She stipulates that if she had considered the situation unsafe, mentally or physically for the children, she would have stepped in.
- Hillary had 3 intentional conversations with the referees and she also spoke with the other coaches.

- Hillary will be video taping games this coming weekend in order to document how the games go.
- Donna and Hillary are looking into hiring referees for this weekend, since we do not have a reserve of volunteer refs. The Rec. Dept. does not have funds allocated for this.
- Donna stated that overall she has been so very proud of the friendly and supportive spirit Moultonborough's parents and coaches have shown in the past at games. She was very disappointed with Saturday's event.
- Donna also feels it is her duty to protect and support her staff.

Due to time constraints, this subject was tabled.

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, February 4 at 6PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55AM