

Minutes New Durham Parks and Recreation Commission

April 24, 2014

7:00PM at the New Durham Public Library

Call to Order: 6:58PM

Public Input: Several parents from the CKC child care program were present with questions about billing and contracts. They were advised that specific accounts would not be discussed in public session. It was also explained that contracts were explained in meetings, and that concerns with billing must follow the procedure of contacting the part time billing staff as a first course of action. Given that some parents are requesting statements as far back as September, it was also explained that research time and copies of statements will be charged in the future. Since the contracts explain that the current week's payment for services is due the first day of the week, statements should be reflecting a zero balance. There was a question regarding the extra fee for snow days, and it was explained that the contracted rate in addition to the snow day fee was assessed. The contract will be made more clear with regard to this for the 2014-2015 school year, however this was emphasized at the parent contract meetings. Several parents had expressed that they were frustrated with one parent who had dominated the contract meeting, and that they just signed the contract without fully comprehending the contract in order to get it done. This will also be adjusted at future contract meetings so that the meeting stays on track for parent information.

Two parents expressed their gratitude for their children's care at CKC and advised that the cost was far less than other options. The cost per hour is approximately \$2.32.

Doug Perkins was present and asked the Commission for permission to bring his tractor on to the Majors field and donate his time to make some repairs to the infield. He was unanimously given the green light and thanks for offering to give his time. The infield area is the victim of annual erosion which will hopefully be lessened with the completion of the retaining wall. Doug will do this as convenient for him.

Rec Director's report: Kellie has a field trip to Dover Bowl and the Dover Pool for the week of vacation, and Celeste Chasse's day care as well as Creative Kids Club participants will also be taking part in the trip.

Kellie wanted permission for the use of the beach parking area for a bass tournament with will be held on September 07, 2014. Given that this is after the Labor Day weekend, she was told to give the permission but to also notify the Police Chief that this permission has been granted. Special permission for parking will not be granted between Memorial Day and Labor Day so that residents can find beach parking, however requests for local events, such as a bass tournament where the lake and residents are participating will be granted on the off season.

The bleachers will need to be removed from the school as a result of the gym floor being re-done. Kellie has been asked to take the benches and bleachers to the fields and leave them there until next basketball season for return to the school.

There are 83 kids playing softball and baseball and an additional 20 children taking part in Hershey Track and Field.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a success.

Port a Potties are at the ballfield and Kellie has been asked to have the one for the beach delivered.

Bob Santoro is donating time to help take care of the issues with the pump at the ball field to meet the State's deadline of May 15, 2014.

Kellie has been asked to explore the idea of a town wide clean up day and has spoken with Highway Department head Mike Clark.

The Beach has been prepped by the highway department.

Kellie has some theme ideas for the 2014 road race and town event. She has been asked to keep it to one day this year due to the cost of the event. The topic of tents for events has come up in the past and was mentioned. One resident advised that he might be able to access a large tent on loan from his place of work. He will coordinate with Kellie.

Swim lessons and beach staff are being scheduled. Kellie was reminded to make certain that the town hiring policy is followed for summer staff and that it be done in a timely fashion so that the BOS can make the authorizations.

Kellie has purchased necessary equipment for the teams from the line item in her general fund.

Kristyn Bernier made a motion to authorize Kellie to work with David Valladeres in exploring the possibility of purchasing a van through revolving fund for the use of the Rec. Department and the CKC for events and field trips. Motion seconded by Jennifer Nyman. Motion passed unanimously.

Following non-public, the Commission discussed the summer Creative Kids Club possibilities. The surveys had a minimal return with only five completed by the due date. Two additional were turned in before the meeting. The staff cost to cover 57.5 hours per week requires two part time staff and the full time personnel each day. The estimation for adequate coverage is between \$1100-\$1200 per week, not inclusive of food, activity and field trip costs. In order to meet this, it would be necessary to have 11 full time attendees or a combination of full time and part time attendees to have 10 children per day. Last year's summer program did not have this attendance. Of the surveys, only two showed the need for full time care with the remaining asked for possibly part time care, with some requiring less than two days per week. Given the space situation at the school while the gym floor is being replaced and the limited possibilities for inclement weather activities unless costly field trips are added to the schedule, the

question dealt with was whether or not the program could be financially sustained during summer vacation.

Kristyn Bernier made the motion that based upon the survey results for interest in a summer day care program, which would not financially sustain itself, that the Creative Kids Club be closed ONLY for summer vacation for 2014 to be re-opened for the school year of 2014-2015. Patti Luckern seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kristyn will draft a letter to notify parents by next Friday with their statements so that families have ample time to find alternative solutions for day care needs for the summer. She will email the letter to the Commission for review.

Dot is working on the contract for the 2014-2015 before and after school CKC program and will email it to members.

The commission discussed taking the time over the summer to assess the needs of the CKC Program and the community with regard to the program to keep it in line with serving the needs of the families in the best way possible.

Minutes were reviewed. Jennifer Nyman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2014 Commission meeting. Sherri Brulotte seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting date of May 25, 2014 at 7PM at the Library was tentatively chosen.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristyn Bernier, Chair