

New Durham Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

January 14, 2015, 7PM Town Hall

Call to Order: 7:04PM

Attendance: Kristyn Bernier, Sherri Brulotte, Dorothy Veisel, Doug Perkins, Patti Luckern, Nichole Hunter

Excused absence: Jennifer Nyman

Recreation Director's Report: Nichole update the group on weekly Bingo, Cribbage, basketball and basketball issues, etc.

The other basketball hoop at the school is broken, with the same issue as the other one a couple of years ago. The school department failed to buy parts for both hoops in anticipation of an issue, and this has placed limitations on the children's basketball practices and games for at least several weeks. The travel team schedule is now up in the air as a result and the older children can only use one hoop. Parents are coaches are upset, however Nichole has been directed them to express their frustration to the school district for the lack of foresight. The hoops were donated years ago and hung up by a volunteer, and the parts can come only from a location in Canada. Doug Perkins stated that he has offered other solutions to the school, however he has been shut down by their maintenance staff.

Communication with families was discussed, and Kristyn and Nichole reported that a bi-weekly newsletter will now be going out to families. The school is no longer allowing fliers from outside sources, therefore the communication with school families has been limited. Despite the website and the Facebook page, parents still want immediate response. Nichole has been directed to post hours when she is in the office and to explain to residents that she will return calls and emails during those hours. She is only working 28 hours, and unless there is a coach issue or an emergency, she has been directed to respond only on her work hours. Her schedule is accessible, and she does respond to Facebook messages, despite that messages come in at all hours.

The newsletter will focus on 2 weeks' worth of schedules and events. Nichole has been directed to have all parents refer to their child's coach for scheduling questions and basic issues. If the coach cannot answer the concern, then Nichole will be brought into the loop. This process is outlined in the Mission Statement all parents and coaches receive.

Nichole advised that a part time employee believes that he is still not receiving the raise he was put in for in August. Nichole was directed to email the TA and copy the Chair of the BOS.

Kristyn had requested finances for the general and revolving funds, as well as a revolving fund balance, however neither the TA nor the finance officer knew how to obtain that figure.

Nichole presented some ideas for a summer daycare/camp program involving themes, events and projects. She has been asked to continue brainstorming so that a summer camp program can be finalized by March.

The group has asked that Nichole work with the town mechanic and acquire a mini bus or van. This will come from the revolving fund with a plan in place to make certain maintenance is covered. A vehicle will allow for flexibility with the day care, summer came and adult programming, keeping the cost down for residents. The biggest issue is the balance of the revolving fund, and no decision can be made until that figure has been provided to the group.

Nichole, Sherri and Doug are working on a meat raffle and will work in conjunction with the Food Pantry.

A lake plunge fundraiser will also be scheduled for the end of April.

The group is hoping to schedule a candy bar bingo night at the school in March.

The theme for Celebrate New Durham Day is the 80's, and Gazpacho has already been booked for the event. The event will be on July 25. Nichole will be booking the race timer as well.

Nichole has been asked to place ads for summer beach attendants and swim instructors so that hiring process can begin in March.

Kristyn advised the group that she has requested the BOS hire the minute taker for rec meetings. She advised that the BOS minute taker makes 13.25 per hour. The interim rec director was only making 13.00 an hour, and the budgeted figure for rec minutes was 12.00 per hour. Kristyn has received no update from the TA or BOS on this as of this time.

The group will schedule the next meeting when everyone has their schedules for February.

Minutes were reviewed for November, and Doug Perkins made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Patti Luckern. The motion passed unanimously.

The group will be looking into a summer craft fair with vendors at the ball field as well as a town wide flea market at the field and maps for those who wish to have the yard sale at their home. Nichole will be combining with either Alton or Farmington on their designated day.

Goals for the year were discussed with each member of the group contributing to a goal list:

1. Better communication from the league for baseball.
2. Marketing events better: despite news articles and Facebook posts, the Christmas event attendance was minimal.
3. Dealing with hornets at the beach and ball field, as well as sodding the infield to lessen the problem.
4. Getting the concession stand open more and having more parents volunteer to run the stand so that fees can be reduced.
5. Communication.
6. More volunteer involvement from parents.

Kristyn Bernier made the motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II a, c for the purpose of personnel supervision. Dot Veisel seconded the motion. A roll call vote passed the motion unanimously. The group entered into non-public session at 8:45PM. The session was for a supervision session with the recreation director. No decisions were made.

Sherri Brulotte made the motion to come out of non-public session at 9:12PM and Kristyn Bernier seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sherri Brulotte made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 PM, and Dot Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristyn Bernier, Chair