

North Stonington Recreation Commission
January 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 6:22 pm with Commissioners Taylor, Rusich, Perkins, Comeau, Welborn, and McCord. Director John Hines was present. Marc Tate was present for the first portion of the meeting.

December minutes – A motion was made to accept the minutes from the December meeting, noting that the date for the Winter Campfire is Friday, January 31 (not 28). The motion to accept the minutes passed.

Financial Report – The Financial Report was reviewed.

- A charge of \$825 to “Connecticut Council” discussed at the December meeting was incorrectly charged to the Rec Commission. This charge has been removed.
- Commission members briefly discussed ideas for spending any funds that remain in the budget at the end of the budget year.
- Director Hines explained that he is paying to have the ice rink cleaned and maintained at the rec field. He stated that we need to assess whether it is worth continuing with the ice rink next year.
- The CL&P charge for electricity is routinely \$300 or more per month. This seems high for the size of the office space.

A motion was made by Comm. Taylor to accept the report.

Old Business

1. Marc Tate provided an update on the phone. The phone contract was finalized on 1/7 and the new phone will be set up within 2 weeks. He expects savings of \$300 a year.
2. Marc Tate and Director Hines provided information about Active Net and the commission's goal to have online registration available for Fall 2014. The town of Groton is no longer using ActiveNet for their registration. It is possible that ActiveNet is too broad for our needs. There is a different program that charges \$4 per registrant. There may be an option for an annual fee rather than a charge for each registration. Director Hines needs to include in the budget by 1/21. Marc agreed to make sure John has the information he needs to properly budget this item.
3. The Outdoor Expo was tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 10 at the December meeting. John discussed this idea with Nita Kincaid (NS Garden Club), who felt that holding the Expo on the same day at the garden club sale was not a good idea. There are a number of families who visit the garden club sale to pick out plants for Mother's Day. The commission discussed other dates and agreed Saturday, May 3 would be a good alternative to May 10. Comm. Rusich reported that canoes were available for \$40 per canoe (with 2 paddles and 2 life vests included). He was asked to reserve 8 canoes for Saturday, May 3.
4. Hiking should be included as part of the Outdoor Expo. There was a discussion about how to provide hiking trail information to families. Comm. Welborn volunteered to look into types of hiking information currently provided by local groups (e.g., Avalonia Land Conservancy) and by the town. Director Hines will check with town hall to see what information is currently available about the natural resources in North Stonington.
5. It was suggested that a letter box or geo box might be a good activity to include on Saturday, May 3.
6. The Summer Hires Policy was reviewed and revised. John recommends the commission interview all applicants for Junior counselor positions. The interview benefits the applicant (it may be their first interview) and the interview may provide information that an application does not

bring forth. It was agreed that all applicants will be interviewed before making final hiring decisions.

7. Comm. McCord told the group she might not return as Director of Playground Camp this summer. She will know more in the next few months.
8. The Beer Brewing class had two registrations. The winter class will be held at Brian Boscoe's home. The class will likely be offered again in the spring brochure.

New Business

1. Comm. McCord has been the Director for Kiddie Camp and Playground Camp for a number of years. John proposed that each camp now have a separate director with no senior counselors. Kiddie Camp would have two counselors and a director. Playground Camp would have three counselors and a director. Each director would be expected to be involved with camper activities. Students hired as counselors will be eligible to return until they graduate from high school. Their final summer as counselor would be the summer after high school graduation. The WHS dress code will be used for counselors. They will be provided two shirts for a uniform and will need to wear khaki shorts with their counselor shirts.
2. A final decision about whether to hire a director for Kiddie Camp or an assistant director will wait until Comm. McCord knows for sure whether she will be returning as Playground Camp Director.
3. The Winter Campfire is scheduled for Friday, January 31. Preparations will be as follows:
 - Comm. Comeau will prepare a flyer to go home with elementary school students.
 - Director Hines will get hot chocolate from Dunkin Donuts (plan for 100 people to attend the campfire).
 - Comm. Welborn will get ingredients for s'mores and sticks for marshmallows.
 - Comm. Perkins and Comm. Rusich will get wood for the campfire.
4. John Hines will check with town hall to see if we need a permit to build a campfire at the rec field.
5. John plans to purchase Easter Eggs for the egg hunt in April. He can purchase 2000 eggs for \$130. A review of the cost to purchase candy separately vs. purchasing filled eggs affirmed the decision to fill eggs with purchased candy. The commission will plan to fill eggs before the hunt.
6. Comm. Comeau has prepared a sign for the rec field track. The commissioners approved her design and she will finish the sign.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.