

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes February 9, 2021

Members Present: Melissa Staiti, Rob Owens, Robin Grady, Erin Bradbury, Robyn Floyd
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Denise Morano, Recreation Director
Angela Greene, Recording Secretary

Erin called the Recreation Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Erin and seconded by Melissa to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting.

The minutes of December 8, 2020 were approved 4-0-1 Robin abstained.

Director's Report:

Programs:

Pay it Forward – Melissa suggested that we launch a “Love thy Neighbor” movement, showing kindness to someone in your neighborhood. All that would be asked is that it is paid forward. Some ideas were to anonymously leave a goody basket with a note for neighbors that could be struggling and in need of a pick me up. Denise likes the idea and suggested kids could help with shoveling or build a snowman outside of someone’s window. She added that a simple kind gesture can go a long way.

Virtual Fitness Classes – We are offering virtual fitness classes, which began last night. People can sign up for a variety of classes including Yoga, Full Body Conditioning, Pilates, etc. The classes are in 8 week sessions: 2 classes / week and costs \$58.00; 4 classes / week and costs \$78.00; all 14 class options / week and costs \$108.00. Classes are 1 hour in length. We sent a flyer to all the people who have a membership on our myrec software system, and posted it on the Recreation Facebook page. Denise said that the classes are reasonably priced and we were surprised and disappointed that only a few people had registered. She added that being on the computer all day might have something to do with the low registrations.

Virtual Kids Class – We are offering a virtual class for kids, called Kids’ Test Kitchen, which teaches children how to cook with healthy ingredients. They’ll learn how to make veggie sushi, black bean tacos, lemon solstice pasta and healthy cookies. It’s a 6 week session that begins March 15 and costs \$84.00/family. All ages are welcome. Advertising for this class just started yesterday and we are seeing positive results with 8 already registered.

Photography Contest – Denise would like to offer a photography contest to the residents, with the theme of “Best of Holden”. This would be run similar to the Halloween contest, and the winner would be determined by the number of “likes” on Facebook. People could take photos of something in town that is near and dear to their hearts and submit the entry. It is a great way to get people outside and exploring the town and what it has to offer. Robin G. suggested that 12 winners could be chosen and a calendar could be made with the winning photos. The idea was well received by all members.

Denise would also like to offer a “snowman or snow structure building” contest over February vacation. It would be a nice incentive for the children to get out and play. This would

be held if we get a storm with better snow for building with. The winner would be chosen by the number of Facebook "likes".

Middle School Aged Programs – Robyn F. Suggested that we offer something to middle school kids on school half days. During the summer, Trout Brook could be used as a home base for a program. Robin G. thinks it would be a good idea and thought that a low level rope course or team building activities could be done in that area. Melissa added that a nature's classroom would be a good idea. On school half days Robyn F. would like to look into different resources that could be utilized to offer activities such as passes to Wachusett Mountain. Denise mentioned that during the school year we offered cake decorating and babysitting classes that were well received, and during the summer a Counselor in Training program is offered. She added that it is sometimes difficult to channel that age group but we can hopefully get something together after we take the time to figure out the logistics and budget.

Summer:

Pool Pass Tags – Denise has order the pool tags, and they have been delivered.

Pass Sales – We are hoping to start selling passes beginning March 1 at 9:00 a.m., and will be online only. The date might be pushed to the middle of March.

Summer Program Information – We are updating all the program information on the myrec site. The registration for all summer programs will begin sometime in late March or early April. The date will depend in the Covid-19 situation.

Summer Brochure – The summer brochure will be online only this year.

Seasonal Status – Denise applied for, and received seasonal status for all summer program seasonal staff.

Miscellaneous:

Angela – Denise brought Angela back into the office on Tuesday, January 19th.

Field Assignments – Denise sent out the field assignments for the spring and fall seasons to the Holden Youth Sports directors on January 5.

Davis Hill Softball – The Davis Hill softball field which was the baseball field has been converted incorrectly. This field is offline until the work has been completed.

Trout Brook – Trout Brook is being rented for a Showtime hit show, Dexter. The scene will take place in a forest near a stream. Dexter will run down the hill in the snow then goes into the stream to hide his footprints. Denise has met several times with the location manager and technical groups and they believe Trout Brook is the ideal location. They'll begin setting up Thursday, February 11 and the filming will take place Tuesday, February 16 and Wednesday, February 17. The pool parking lot may be used for vehicles and trailers for wardrobe, make-up, etc. The Recreation Department will receive a donation of \$12,000 - \$14,000. Trout Brook will be closed off to visitors while filming is taking place, but it will be available other days.

Santa – It saddens Denise to report that Santa (EJ Johansen) passed away on January 16, it was sudden and unexpected. He played Santa for about 20 years, and loved doing it, he will sorely be missed. Rest in peace EJ.

Motion was made by Erin Bradbury, and seconded by Melissa Staiti to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.