

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022

Members Present: Erin Bradbury, Robin Grady, Dan Correia

Members Absent: Robyn Floyd, Rob Owens

Others Present: Angela Greene, Recreation Acting Director
Arianna Kneeland, Recording Secretary

Erin Bradbury called the Recreation Committee meeting to order at 7:15PM.

Minutes:

The minutes of the April 12, 2022 could not be approved due to the absence of members.

Director's Report:

Summer:

Pool- Angela handed out papers with general information of the 2022 summer. It was a hot summer, with little rain, resulting in a daily average of 461 people at the pool. Approximately 31,326 people visited the pool throughout the entire summer, which is an increase of 6,867 people, from 2021. Other than the last two days of the season, the pool did not close for one full day due to the weather. There was a leak in the family pool resulting in substantial loss of water however it was re-caulked last week and should fix the problem. The covers were put on yesterday (09/12/2022).

Summer Camp Programs- Angela stated that the summer staff did an outstanding job regardless of the heat. There were some difficult, hot days but the staff managed to keep the campers cool, happy and engaged in their various activities. The staff gave the kids extra pool time most days, including the Tennis and Basketball camps.

The Lifeguard Certification class was also a huge success. There was a great team of guards this summer at the pool, most of which, were gained through that program.

Programs:

Before and After School- The before and after school programs have high volume at all three schools. Davis Hill and Mayo have both reached maximum capacity- 52 kids in the mornings and 52 kids in the afternoon, with waiting lists for both. Dawson currently has 45 kids in the morning and 43 in the afternoon. To be able to continue these Before/After school and All Day summer programs, the three elementary schools have to be relicensed in October by Department of Early Education and Care. The licensor was at Dawson's after school program yesterday and they were pleased, with no non-compliances. They will stop into the rest of the schools, also, unannounced. Angela is also looking to increase the capacity at Mayo and Davis Hill to 65 kids. Robin Grady asked, *if there would need to be extra staff in order for that to happen?* There would be a need for one more staff added to each day, however the ratio is 1;13, (one staff to every 13 kids) so it still would not be necessary with five staff in attendance, but is preferred.

Adult Classes- Starting September 22nd, Men's Basketball will be moving from Mayo to Mountview Middle School, Thursday evenings from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Women's volleyball was cut from Mountview due to low attendance. Angela will look into trying another program there as well.

Future Programming- There is a possibility of a new outdoor sports complex on Industrial Road with many new features. These include walking trails connecting to the pool, a walking track, a workout area, a gaga pit, an obstacle course and two turf soccer fields for two different skill levels (beginner and intermediate). Dan offered the idea of a Summer Conditioning program for high school aged kids. In response, Angela stated that they tried something similar in the past and it did not have a great turn out in numbers but she is willing to try again. She also wants to implement more activities based by age, Mighty Munchkin leagues for younger aged children, obstacle courses, relay races and other team bonding activities. Angela also wanted to look into more adult league programs. The playground and the baseball field at the pool are being redone as well.

The idea of a Holden sprint (mini triathlon) was discussed starting with swimming, then biking and ending with a run. The group collaboratively discussed what this map would look like but came to a few dead ends. The final thought was starting the swim at Comet Pond, from there the bike ride will lead to the new outdoor sports complex and end with the run there. Erin and Dan both stated it seemed too short and the contestants also would need to finish where they started, that's when Erin suggested a children's race instead. In order for this event to be successful it would need a lot of support such as volunteers, timers, bike repairers, lots of time before, during and after, (etc.) and most importantly would need acceptance and depends on the votes at the town meeting (on October 17). This process could take some time.

Miscellaneous:

Halloween in Holden- Halloween in Holden will be on October 29th from 11am to 4pm, weather pending. This will be a great opportunity for business's to advertise themselves, meet new people and even give children an extra day of trick-or-treating. Along with local businesses, the State Police will also be attending. This was such a big turnout last year that they ran out of candy and snacks for everyone. Special guest stars, Ryleigh Modig from The Voice, and local singer, Chad Clements, will be performing in the bandstand at the Senior Center.

Winter/Holidays in Holden- For the winter, Angela is buying a reusable kit for an ice skating rink at the Senior Center. She pointed out that the kit would cost the same amount as it would if it was built with wood every year. There are already many eager volunteers, including Clayton Johansen who has helped in the past with this, to help set it up. The Holidays in Holden event will be a three day event, starting Friday December 9 (date was determined by EDC). There will be a trolley open to the public for Friday and Saturday. Friday will consist of a winter stroll, town wide luminaria lighting and fun contests like kids coloring and a festive beverage contest. The festive beverage contest (official name to be determined) is for restaurants to participate in and will be best alcoholic, non-alcoholic and kids drinks. Whoever wins the coloring contest gets to light the tree. Saturday there will be food trucks, a holiday market located where the farmer's market normally is, the tree lighting and Santa's arrival at 5:00 pm. It was mentioned how chaotic the meeting Santa event has been in the past and decided it needs more structure this year. Different ideas like Santa's placement, creating ticket times to reduce lines, or creating an app for smoother lines were thought of. Seven Saws tap room on Main St. will be having wreath making and the brewery on Industrial Drive will also have activities/food trucks. Sunday will be the last day ending off with a parade and a drive through light display. The Girl Scouts will be in attendance as well as Shooting Stars Performing Arts dancers. The Boy Scouts were in attendance last year and they did great. Weather pending, the ice rink will be open this weekend and you will need to bring your own ice skates. Lighting was a questionable factor, Angela considered asking for a donation for this.

Motion was made by Dan Correia, and seconded by Erin Bradbury to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held on October 11, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.