

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
January 11th, 2023



Call to Order

6:43pm Jeff Shute called the meeting to order

Present: Jeff Shute- Chairman, Erica Menard, Brian Fisher, Katie Libby, Frank

Bongiovanni, Sean Morrissey, - Members

Excused: Nate Brown, Jeff D'Agostino, and John Dubiansky - Members , Deb

Treantafel- Assistant Director

Also Present: Eric Menard-Director

Review of Minutes

Motion: Erica Menard moves to approve the minutes from December 2022 as written

Second: Brian Fisher

Vote to Approve: 5 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstained- Motion Carries

DPR Financial Update

DPR Financial Update did not happen as the financial sheets were not shared to Member Erica Menard and Director Menard in time to prepare for the Meeting. Member Menard will send out the Financial update to the rest of the Commission and Director Menard will give some insight to the numbers in follow-up communication.

Continuing Business

Current Programming

After School Update/Toddler Programming

Director Menard shared an update on the After School program and Toddler Programming. There are 53 memberships, one new in the month. Average attendance is in the high 30's. The week before Winter Vacation, the After School program was moved to the DCS Cafeteria due to renovations taking place with the new Restaurant in the GBW Building. There will be a new Pottery Session starting January 30th (usually averages around 15 kids in the session). Deb had a meeting with the PJL Library in regards to ways that the two Departments can work together on programming such as special clubs with the After School program.

For Toddler Programming, the second session for Toddler Tuesday will begin on February 7th. We had 6 toddlers for the first session and Director Menard believed that we already had 6 or 7 registered for the second session. This is a bi-weekly program that is ran by Deb, each session is 8 weeks. The registration cost is \$48 per toddler per session.

Fitness/Exercise Classes

Director Menard shared an update on Fitness/Exercise Classes. The Line Dancing program returned in January, as they took the month off in December. That program is ran on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30pm. A few people have reached out to him about the program so it sounds like new faces are going to join. Zumba is going on Monday nights from 7:00-8:00pm ran by Valerie Brodie. Yoga is starting this month, as she ran a “trial class” in late December. That will take place from 7:30-8:30pm on Wednesday nights following Line Dancing. A Fitness Pass was created for Zumba/Yoga which is a \$45 cost which is good to use for 10 classes total (pay 9 classes and get the 10th class free). Or participants can pay the \$5 drop-in fee. Zumba typically has 8-12 participants each night. Director Menard reached out to some other towns that offer Tai Chi classes as we have some space and time during some mornings or during the day.

Youth Basketball Update

Director Menard shared an update on Youth Basketball. The Lil Dribblers and Hot Shots programs had their first session on Saturday 1/7. The Lil Dribblers program has 22 kids and Hot Shots has 33 kids. Member Sean Morrissey is taking the lead with the Lil Dribblers program and Director Menard is taking the lead of Hot Shots. Each program has about 7 parents who signed up to volunteer. Member Morrissey made a comment of some positive feedback he received from another parent and the healthy dialogue that encountered in that discussion, all with the goals of improving the program in terms of timing and coverage. Director Menard shared that he would be more available for the Lil Dribblers program as he was organizing everything for other programs and games as it was the first Saturday of the season. Director Menard shared that he and Member Morrissey plan to send weekly practice plans to the Volunteer Coaches so they can see and understand before arriving to the session.

The Grades 3-6 games had their first games on 1/7. They will have games each Saturday through 2/18. On 1/28, it will be “Deerfield Youth Basketball Day” at Southern New Hampshire University. The SNHU Women’s and Men’s teams will have games and Deerfield families are encouraged to come, wear their shirts and jerseys, and sit together. Member Fisher and Member Libby are both coaching the ¾ Girls team and said that they have had a good experience so far with their team.

Adult Basketball Update

Director Menard stated that Adult Basketball starts on Friday 1/13. He stated that half of the sessions were on Fridays and half were on Tuesdays. The reason for this was due to scheduling at the DCS gym. Adult Basketball will take place on Fridays until the DCS Basketball Season ends. After that, it will be on Tuesdays nights. Chairman Shute asked if there was a good number of a group that attends Adult Basketball. Director Menard said he was not sure of the numbers as he did not go to them last year but thought that it was around 12-15 per night. Member Fisher added that he went to some, and there was around 15 or so which is a good number for such a program and switching between games.

Ice Rink Update

Members pointed out how nice the lights look at the rink. Chairman Shute explained that one of the corners of the small rink was disrupted and he thought it might have been due to too much water possibly. Chairman Shute also said that he and Member Bongiovanni went to the rink before the meeting and saw that someone went on the rink and there were ice chunks thrown on it. Director Menard brought over Picnic Tables and moved them and the mats in-between the two Ice Rinks.

Upcoming Programming

Dances

Director Menard shared that 1/20 is the Grades 3-4-5 Dance and 1/21 is the Grades K-1-2 Dance. For the Grades K-1-2 Dance, parents are welcome to attend. We are taking registrations on Recdesk for these dances and there is a limit of 50 kids for each dance. As of the meeting, there were 32 and 36 registered for the two dances. On the registration, kids got to vote for what themed dance they wanted with "Neon" winning. Deb is ordering Decorations and Eric will DJ both dances.

Winter Carnival/Extravaganza

Director Menard said that the Winter Extravaganza will be on 2/4. The PJJ Library will be co-sponsoring this event and will have hot chocolate, cookies, and storytime. Director Menard ordered a Porta Potty to be placed at the Ice Rink. Member Menard asked what the plan was if the weather or rink wasn't in good enough condition. Director Menard said that we could have a "raindate" of the following weekend. Chairman Shute suggested we have a fire in the chicken pit, Director Menard suggested we have s'mores with proceeds going to the Joe Stone Scholarship. Director Menard also said that last year, he had made a schedule of events with different games and activities before it was cancelled and that he could make something like that again.

New Department Program Ideas

Director Menard shared some new ideas of department programming. Deb and Eric have talked about expanding program offerings to reach other groups in the Deerfield Community. Some of the ideas that are being brainstormed are Senior Trips (maybe one each season), Coffee and Card Games for Seniors (bi-weekly), Senior Speaker Series (monthly), Teen Game Nights (once a month), Teen Outings on weeks of School Vacations, Family Game Night (targeted to younger/new to town families), and hosting different clubs. Director Menard shared that he has heard or received feedback from different meetings and conversations and he would like to show the Community that the Department is making progress and opening up new opportunities and programming. Member Libby mentioned that she knew of a Senior in the community that in the past had expressed interest in leading a walking group. She also mentioned the idea of using Hartford Brook field for other events such as Capture the Flag or other types of games and contests. Members discussed different ideas on how to communicate with the Senior population to spread the news on our programming.

Hoop Classic

Registration for the Hoop Classic opened yesterday (1/10). The tournament will run from 3/10-3/19. The plan is to run on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and then the following Thursday-Sunday. The Team Registration Deadline is 2/10. After the deadline, Director Menard will create the schedules, get officials,

start reaching out for volunteers. Member Bongiovanni asked how the situation was with Basketball Officials. Director Menard said that Basketball Official coverage is the easiest compared to the other sports. We have two experienced officials who cover all of our Grades 3-6 games and have done so for several years.

Baseball/Softball

Director Menard met this past Sunday with Lamprey River Baseball. The goal is to open registration in early February and close in middle of March. Director Menard would like to have an earlier Field Clean up day, and thought about reaching out to DCS to use the gym for some pitcher and catcher sessions. The problem last year was that due to weather and field conditions, teams had only 3 or 4 practices before games. Other towns usually have 3 weeks of practices before games. Member Libby suggested the idea of renting out an indoor facility for some sessions so that players can do drills and practice before being outside. Members Bongiovanni and Morrissey thought that was a great idea as they are also involved in the programs. Member Bongiovanni recommended that we have a subcommittee meeting to discuss more details for the programs. Member Morrissey shared that in the T-Ball program last year, there would be older kids who were practicing the same drills because they needed that practice. Chairman Shute recommended reaching out to CYAA about scheduling some slots. Member Libby said it would be a good idea for the messaging of these indoor sessions to come from the coaches and could result in a better turnout or more likelihood to donate to help cover costs. Evaluations for LRLL 10-11-12 League Age are on March 19th from 2-6pm.

Summer Camp

Director Menard just stated that him and Deb are starting to prepare and evaluate for the 2023 Summer Camp. He is looking through the finances, trips, and other opportunities for the programs. With an 8 week program, Director Menard thinks there will be 4 out of town trips. Last year, trips were to Chucksters, Chunkys, Candia Springs, and Cowabungas. Also last year, the North Hampton Summer Camp came to Deerfield and there was a "Battle of the Summer Camps", a day where the two camps had different competitions. The plan is to repeat and potentially expand with other towns.

Member Menard asked about the possibility of expanding and offering weekly sport camps, this could be morning hour camps for example. Kids in the Summer Camp program could potentially go to the sports camp and then be brought back to the Summer Camp. Director Menard shared that he supported the idea of having some sports camps, but his biggest concern is the staffing and coverage for it. Member Fisher suggested that we could get some of the High School Athletes for specific sports to work the camps.

Old Home Day Fireworks Vendor

The vendor for the Old Home Day reached out to Director Menard. As repetitive annual customers, he reached out to see if we would like to schedule for 2023 Old Home Day. Director Menard paraphrased his communication with the vendor which said that the minimum display for 2023 would be \$7500 (last year we paid \$7200), the increase in cost is due to shipping and supplies. The date would be August 20th, with a raindate of August 27th. Chairman Shute recommended that we lock in the date with the vendor. Members all agreed that the move to the Sunday night instead of having it on Saturday

night is a nice change and want to keep that going forward. Director Menard will reach out to the Deerfield Fair Association to see if the dates are available.

Motion: Katie Libby made a motion to move forward with JPI Pyrotechnics LLC for the 2023 Old Home Day Fireworks.

Second: Brian Fisher

Vote to Approve: 6 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstained- Motion Carries

Other Business

Department Vehicle Search Update

Director Menard shared his update on the search for a Department Truck. Director Menard has been researching online for different options and has been sharing his progress with Chairman Shute staying in the range of \$20,000. Director Menard attempted to test-drive 3 of them, two of them weren't at the lot and the third truck he did not think was a good attempt. He had also spoken with Town Administrator John Harrington. Although, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved this type of purchase, Director Menard still needs to go to the Board of Selectmen and get their approval before purchasing a vehicle. Director Menard said that is best to have a truck before the start of the Spring Sports season as that is when the most work is needed and would be helped with a Department Truck.

DPR Classrooms

Director Menard shared that the walls inside the four classrooms were painted over the School Winter Vacation. Director Menard also shared that he would like to re-do the flooring in the Studio and Little Tykes Room. Both of the floors are in very poor condition and are heavily used for our Exercise Classes and will be used during the Summer Camp. The vendor that did the flooring in the Big Dog Room said that he would around and see if he could find any similar material. There is also a need to replace the carpet in the Game Room as it is ripping up and tearing. The half wall in the Game Room was torn down so there are currently mats covering the open spots. Chairman Shute recommended looking into rubber flooring for the back two rooms. The goal is to get these projects down before Summer Camp.

Deerfield Gazette Submission (Warrant Article/Town Budget)

Director Menard shared his plans with the Deerfield Gazette Submission due in February. The Department has been posting updates on programs and dates in the past few issues of the Gazette. Director Menard plans to put out a "narrative" on our Department, how it is structured, and more about Warrant Article/Town Budget and the relation to our Department. With the 2022 Recreational Maintenance Fund, we did not spend a little over \$8,000 so that could overlap into the 2023 (if that Warrant Article passes). The group discussed the much needed maintenance at the Bicentennial Fields including the Fencing and the Trees around the ballfields.

Citizens Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion: Katie Libby

Second: Brian Fisher

Vote: 5 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstained

Meeting ended at 8:10pm

Next Meeting Wednesday, February 8, 2023

The minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Eric Menard,

Director of Parks and Recreation.

Pending approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

*Revisions, if any, will be contained in the minutes of the
next meeting.*