

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**February 8th, 2023**



**Call to Order**

6:50pm Jeff Shute called the meeting to order

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

Morrissey, John Dubiansky, Jeff D'Agostino - Members

**Excused:** Nate Brown, Frank Bongiovanni- Members , Deb Treantafel- Assistant

Director

**Also Present:** Eric Menard-Director

**Review of Minutes**

**Motion:** Katie Libby moves to approve the minutes from January 2023 as written

**Second:** John Dubiansky

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

**DPR Financial Update**

DPR Financial Update from Member Erica Menard will be sent out to Commission members following the meeting.

**Continuing Business**

**Current Programming**

**After School Update/Toddler Programming**

Director Menard shared an update on the After School Program. Since January, the attendance has averaged around 40-44 students per day. One Adult Staff is no longer working in the After School program, they were working 2-3 days per week. Director Menard reposted advertisements for hiring Adult Staff for the program as he did in the beginning of the school year. Director Menard stated that he is going to be sitting down with Town Administrator John Harrington to talk about an increase in wages for our After School Staff. Director Menard will present a wage scale proposal to the Commission at the next week. The current staffing for the After School program is Director Menard, one Adult Staff working 5 days a week, two High School staff working 2-3 days a week, and several Staff in Training each day of the week. The goal is hiring two Adult Staff so that there is an Adult in each room and one Adult in the

Hallway covering sign-outs and bathroom coverage. There have been a couple of new families asking to join the program, but due to the staffing situation, we are not taking any new members as we want to make sure Staff can handle the supervision of kids in the program. Member Dubiansky said that he would be willing to come once a week and help out the program as he previously worked in the program. Director Menard shared that the P.J.L. is coming to the After School program each Monday for a reading visit and every other Wednesday running Lego Club.

Director Menard shared that the Second Session of the Toddler Tuesday program began at the beginning of the Month. There are 6 toddlers registered in the program (same number as the Session in the Fall). A new "Toddlers at Play" program began this month. This is a bi-weekly program on Wednesday mornings where parents bring their toddlers into the Game Room and have free play time. The first session went well with 13 toddlers attending. There is no fee for this program, parents are required to supervise their child.

### Senior Programming

Director Menard shared an update on Senior Programming. Senior Fitness has grown to about 16-18 people per session, in the past has been around 10-14. The Department started a new program for Seniors "Coffee, Card Games, and Bingo" which will be held bi-weekly on Wednesday mornings. There was no attendance for the first session the first Wednesday of February. Chairman Shute asked how the program was advertised. Director Menard said that it was promoted through our Website and Facebook page, he had a couple of seniors reach out to him asking about the program and he encouraged them to attend. The Department has also created a "Senior Bulletin Board" in the Hallway near the Studio Room where we are putting Senior-related programming flyers there. Member Libby said it would be a good idea to find a Senior in the community who is involved in a variety of things and have them help communicate, organize, and promote Senior programming as that could lead to better turnouts.

### Fitness/Exercise Classes Programming

Director Menard shared updates on Exercise Classes. Zumba is on Monday nights, Line Dancing is on Wednesday nights, and Yoga follows on Wednesday nights. Director Menard has seen an increase in Line Dancing participants with some younger people joining. Zumba and Yoga typically average 6-8 per session. Starting in January, the Department created a Fitness Pass which consists of 10 classes for \$45 (used for Zumba and Yoga sessions, buy 9 classes and get the 10<sup>th</sup> for free). There are currently 5 people who purchased the card, other attendees pay the \$5 drop-in fee each session.

### Youth Basketball

Director Menard shared that there were a couple of weeks left of the Grades 3-6 Regular Season and the other Younger Basketball group sessions. Member Morrissey shared with the group his experience leading the Pre-K/K session. He has seen a drastic improvement from the kids with practicing the skills. The transitions between stations are getting quicker so everyone is learning and growing. Director Menard shared that the Grades 1-2 program is going well. There is more of a focus of teaching game play compared to previous years. The group started with 1v1, 2v1, 3v2 drills and will work its way up to practicing 5v5 by the end of the program. There are still stations in the beginning of the session to practice skills and fundamentals. For both sessions, we have a minimum of four volunteer coaches. The

coaches are growing and developing their stations, adjusting them for the kids based off what they see, they are doing a great job. Members Fisher and Libby shared that their experience is going well with the 3/4 Girls and seeing a great improvement with their players.

### Adult Basketball

Director Menard shared that there have been two sessions of Adult Basketball so far, and two others have been postponed due to weather and preparation for School Deliberative Session. The two sessions saw about 14-16 players each night. The group has a range of younger adults, parents, out of town adults, no major issues or conflicts within the group. Unfortunately one night, a daughter walked around the school and wrote on computer screens with a Sharpie. The School is handling that situation, Director Menard e-mailed Deerfield Basketball Families a reminder e-mail that their kids need to stay in the gym with them during their siblings practices.

### Ice Rink Update

Director Menard was excited to see the Winter Extravaganza go as well. During the day before the event, there was about 10-15 kids going on the ice so it was nice to see the Rink being used. During the event, we sold around 70 s'mores with proceeds going towards the Joe Stone Good Sport Scholarship. The PJK had some events going on in their building during the event, it seemed like there was a good amount of traffic walking to the Library from the Ice Rink to visit their activities. Chairman Shute said that the Library thinks they had about 50 people stop by and he thinks that at the highest point, the Ice Rink had 40-50 people skating at once. Member Dubiansky thought that it was nice that a wide variety of people attended stating that he didn't recognize a fair amount of people attending, meaning that the event attracted a wide group of people in town. Members discussed the Ice Rink noting that higher temperatures are coming so we will be aware of maintaining the Ice Rink. Chairman Shute shared that he going into next year, he would like to see us talk with the Road Agent about putting a drain in to get rid of the water that builds up next to road and small rink.

### Upcoming Programming

#### Hoop Classic Update

Director Menard shared that we have 29 of 32 spots filled for this years Hoop Classic. There will be up to 8 teams at each division. The dates of the Hoop Classic will be 3/10-3/12 and 3/16-3/19 assuming it gets filled to 32 teams. There is one sponsor so far (not counting Savvy Sound as we include them for donating their equipment). Last year, we had 5 or 6 sponsors. Sponsorship letters were posted on Facebook and an e-mail was sent out to all Deerfield Businesses that we have their e-mail. Once registration closes, schedules can be created, officials can be gathered, and start to create a volunteer signup. Director Menard is talking to SNHU Faculty and Students about volunteering as we had two people last year do so. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class will be running Concessions as they did last year. The second weekend of the Hoop Classic, PTO is doing the Book Sale in the Cafeteria but that shouldn't impact the Hoop Classic. Medals and Plaques have already been ordered. Member Morrissey asked how many Deerfield teams were in it, Director Menard said 5 teams. Chairman Shute asked if Deerfield teams had to pay to play in the Tournament, Director Menard said that part of their Regular Season registration includes entry into the Hoop Classic. Members Fisher and Libby talked about how they will be telling

their parents to help volunteer for a shift. They also talked about how their kids like to be there throughout the day watching the other games and being around the environment when they are not playing, it is a fun atmosphere to be around so hopefully parents see that and help by volunteering. Director Menard stated that he has seen an increase in support for families this season compared to last season in terms of assisting with set-ups and break-downs of programs and games so he is thankful for that and hopeful to see that support continued at Hoop Classic. Member Morrissey recommended that we communicate the Hoop Classic to the families of the younger age groups and encourage them to attend Deerfield games. It is a good way for players to see the game of basketball and for families to see what the Hoop Classic is about knowing that their children will be a part of in a few years. Members thought it could be a fun idea to have these players give “high fives” when lineups are announced.

### **Baseball/Softball/T-Ball**

Registration for these programs opened today online. Members with kids in these programs have been talking with Director Menard about the idea of reserving field time at CYAA for some Baseball and Softball sessions in preparation to the start of the season. Registration closes on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Games will start first week of May and go to end of the School Year. Field Clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Members discussed that DCS Baseball may not be able to use their field this year due to the project at the field. They could not use the field in the Fall so the DCS Soccer teams used DPR fields for their Season.

### **Summer Camp**

Director Menard shared that he is working on planning Summer Camp. Due to an anticipated staff wage increase, there will most likely be an increase in registration fees for the program. Director Menard will create a proposal of a wage scale to present to the Commission at the next meeting.

### **Other Business**

Chairman Shute asked about an update on the Old Home Day Fireworks. Director Menard shared that he signed an agreement with the vendor. He also got approval from the Deerfield Fair Association to use their space again for this years’ Fireworks. The price increased from \$7,200 last year to \$7,500 this year. Chairman Shute said that we need to send something to FOCUS and see if they want to sponsor again this year. Fireworks will be on August 20<sup>th</sup> with a raindate of August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Member Dubiansky shared the wages of Recreation Aides and Supervisors were for the City of Manchester. Director Menard responded saying that Concord had reached out to other Recreation Departments in the area asking about wages, the Concord wages were pretty similar to what our wages currently are. Member Libby said that promoting the idea of working in town and not having to drive to another town is a good idea and another factor that could help us attract staff.

Chairman Shute asked about the batting cages at Bicentennial. Director Menard shared that he could the net at the cage so that it the snow wouldn’t down anymore. He believes that the cage will be an easier fix once the snow melts.

Member D’Agostino asked if there was an update on Spring Soccer. Director Menard shared that right before the meeting, he got an approval e-mail from the New Hampshire Soccer Association to have a Spring Soccer team in Deerfield. The goal this spring is to have one or two teams and then build and

expand going forward. Member D'Agostino said that he will start working with Director Menard and some other volunteers who have stated they want to be involved and help build the program. The Spring Soccer program will be entered into the New Hampshire Soccer League. Director Menard shared that he thinks practices will be at the Gazebo Field and games will be at Bicentennial. With Baseball and Softball going on, Bicentennial and Hartford Brook fields will be busy meaning that Gazebo Field will be best for practices. Member Menard asked what age levels this would include for this Spring. Director Menard said that there if there are two teams, it would most likely be U9 and U10 teams. If only one team, it will be a Coed U10 team. The plan is to expand the number of teams going into the Fall and future Spring seasons. Member D'Agostino recommended that we try to get some time at DCS for some indoor sessions to get ready for the season.

Member Morrissey shared that he started talking with Special Olympics New Hampshire. They provide a package to help people start and run a program themselves. Member Morrissey and Director Menard plan to have a meeting with them to learn more about what it takes to run this type of program/event. Once we get a better understanding of it, we can begin to talk with the Deerfield Community about interest and ability to put on this type of program.

### Citizens Comments

None

### Adjournment

**Motion:** Katie Libby

**Second:** Erica Menard

**Vote:** 6 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstained

Meeting ended at 7:42pm

**Next Meeting Wednesday, March 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.*