

Hardwick Recreation Committee Minutes

April 18, 2017: 6:30PM

Hardwick Senior Center

Present: Joe Brosseau, Ron Wiesen, Nicole Miller, Kathy Hemmens

Absent: Derek Williams

Joe Brosseau called the meeting to order at 6:45PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Nicole Miller and a second by Ron Wiesen.

Monthly Finance Report: Kathy reported on the Finances to date, stating that the Committee has \$9,651.17 remaining at the end of March. Upcoming expenses will include a reimbursement to the REACH program in the amount of \$629.69 for the winter ski program, and expenses for Green-Up Day in early May. The allocation for Green-Up Day may not quite cover expenses this year, as the Solid Waste District grant was reduced to \$350. Since the Coordinator has resigned and the Committee does not expect to hire a replacement until the beginning of the new fiscal year, a significant portion of this year's annual budget is available for re-allocation to existing projects, if it is needed. Following a motion by Ron Wiesen and a second by Nicole Miller, the March Finance Report was approved unanimously.

Project Updates:

Skating Rink: Joe reported that the portable rink has been disassembled and that he is seeking 4 to 5 volunteers to help him move it to storage. He will talk to Tom Fadden about storage space at the Fire Station or elsewhere in a Town building.

Swim Program: Nicole reported that REACH will need \$1849.00 to finance the swim program that has been worked out in cooperation with the Greensboro Lake Association. NEK Kids is contributing to the cost of the program, which significantly reduces the amount to be financed by the Rec. Committee. The Committee agreed, following discussion, to re-allocate the required amount from money remaining in the Coordinator's salary line. Joe will discuss this use of the money with the Chairman of the Select Board as well as another proposed expenditure to be discussed below under "Budget Discussion."

Green-Up Day tire collection issue: Ron reported that Gates Salvage is not able to take tires collected on Green-Up Day because its shredder is broken. The Committee tried without success to come up with other ideas for the disposal of the tires and determined that it will be necessary to advertise the Committee's inability to take recycled tires this year. Joe will put a notice on Front Porch Forum; Karen Klotz will place an ad in the Gazette, and Ron will place a Sandwich Board with this information by the Fire Station.

Spring Festival Race: Joe reported that NEK Kids decided to take on organization of the Race and is seeking volunteers to help.

Budget Discussion: The Committee then turned to consideration of possible uses of the funds left in the Rec. Coordinator's salary line. As discussed above, a portion will be re-allocated to support the swim program, which the Rec. Committee and REACH have been trying to re-establish for several summer seasons, previously without success. Joe recommended using some of the funds to purchase or build a portable warming shed for the skating rink. The Committee all agreed that the availability of a place to put on skates and get warmed up would increase the attractiveness of the skating rink to parents and children. Joe will discuss this proposal with Eric Remick; if necessary, the Committee will approach the Select Board to request approval to use the funds in this way. The Committee also agreed to reduce expenses going forward by cancelling the website/calendar contract that Jessica had negotiated. The Committee felt that using the Town website, Community Calendar, newspaper, and Front Porch Forum were adequate for publicizing programs and events. Joe will take care of cancelling the contract.

Recreation Coordinator Position: After brief discussion, the Committee agreed to go forward with a search for a new 10 hour per week Coordinator. Kathy will write up an Ad to be approved at the May meeting.

Potential new projects: Joe has created a "Wonders of Hardwick Walk" proposal that encompasses creating micro-parks and walking tours around town to our historic buildings, downtown, and trails. He envisions involving schools, civic organizations, and volunteers in this project. The Committee viewed a video presentation he has developed and that Kathy suggested be presented to the Select Board.

The project will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hemmens, Secretary/Treasurer

The next meeting will be held at the Senior Center on May 9th at 6:30PM. The meeting is open to the public.

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