Board of Recreation Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2022

Town Hall Community Room

6:00pm

1. **Call to Order:** M. Phillips called the meeting to order @ 6:00pm
2. **Roll Call:** Present: M. Phillips, V. Carter, F. Beriau, K. Mahan, T. Wakefield, T. Mason, M. Hayes. Absent with notice: M. Lehoux
3. **Citizen’s Participation:** NA
4. **Correspondence**: A letter of thanks was received from TEAG for a donation of $1400. Also received from the Carly family a donation of $400 for the theater.
5. **Adoption of Minutes:** Tabled
6. **Unfinished Business:** 
   1. Parks:
      1. Vandalism at Owen Bell Park: T. Mason discusses issues with dirt bikes, graffiti, and damages to the park. The park crew continues to deal and clean as immediate as possible when issues occur. Thanks to cameras we were able to identify the responsible parties and able to get the money for damages
      2. Fencing Project: The split rail has been replaced with a new vinyl chain link fence along with some repairs and replacement on the softball field.
      3. Concession Stand: A lease has been signed and an expected opening is March/ April. T. Mason shares there will be many benefits to having concessions and is excited about the new addition.
      4. Owen Bell pond dredging: A meeting is scheduled for this week to continue on with plans for the pond. Discussion on location of silt placement after removed from the pond. Possible plan to move silt on to the ball field. Questions as to where soccer and legion ball will be held.
   2. Community Center: Meeting continue regarding upgrades to the Westfield Ave.site. Discussion on theater use and needs are one of the many types of areas the department is currently working on so there is hopefully no disruption of services to the community at the time of the move.
   3. Summer Grant: The recreation department received two grants this past summer for a total of just over $53,000. The grants were only to be used for the Summer Camp. With the monies from these grants, we were able to defer camp fee from $600 to $200, offer enrichment programs, add addition counselor training, and have a variety of entertainment on site as the normal trips taken were unable to run.
7. **New Business:** 
   1. New Members: A welcome to Vance Carter and Kevin Mahan for joining the Board of Recreation.
   2. Brochure: Deciding to change this season, postcards vs. brochures were sent to all residents of Killingly. Included on the post card is a QR code which brings you to our brochure and a brief summary of programs. Cost of the mailing vs. the brochure is the same but the production cost is less. Sponsors are used to defer the cost but it is easier to get less sponsorship for the digital version.
   3. Calendar of Events 2022: Current schedule:
      * + 1. Jellybean Trail, April 9,2022
          2. Red, White, Blue Celebration July 1, 2022
          3. Summer Concert Series (5 weeks)
          4. Bike Night, August 18,2022
          5. Senior Picnic, September 12, 2022

Additional late fall and winter schedule in planning.

* 1. Budget 2022-2023: T. Mason shared information regarding Parks, Recreation and Community Center budget. All budget items will be available to all board for review. M. Philllips addresses meeting dates and suggests a special meeting in February to review the budget. F. Beriau makes a motion to have a special meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022 @ 4:00 pm. V. Carter seconds, all in favor, motion carried.

1. **Director’s Report:** 
   1. T. Mason has joined as liaison on the United Service Committee with regards to youth substance abuse.
   2. Fitness programs, theater, and youthoop are all currently running. Some fitness programs having a wait list. This year there were 242 participants in our youthoop program.
   3. Theater: The Christmas Cabaret was well attended, and we are pleased to announce many new people joining.
2. **Other:** K. Mahon presented the board with a few program suggestions, a Santa Run and chess in the park. T. Mason felt those were some great ideas and should be discussed in the future. T. Mason further discussed how the budget works in regard to events and programming. V. Carter asked if the money received from theater remains with the theater. T. Mason explained that this money goes back to the town as revenue.
3. **Liaison Report:** T. Wakefield reports the town council presented a plaque to the Killingly High School football team for their state title, and acknowledged all teachers of the Year. Several people were appointed to different commissions including recreation. The town may be adding another School Resource Officer and two more constables. The School Resource Officer will also patrol when school is not in session. Constable numbers will be eight, plus the Resident troopers. Economic Development Commission is looking to apply for state grant funds that will emphasize our special characteristics as heritage tourism.