

**ASHFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
1/9/23 7:00 PM RECREATION OFFICE**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Members present were Sherry York, Andrew Doering, Garth Bean, Amanda Holden, and Dan Kehoe.
 - A. **Public to be heard:** No public to be heard
 - B. **Financial Report:** No current financial report to be shared
 - C. **Minutes from November 14th Meeting:** Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed by the commission. There was no meeting in December therefore no December meeting minutes.
 - i. Motion made to approve the minutes from the last APRC meeting on 11/14/22. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

2. **Old Business**
 - A. **Program Update-Basketball:** Ashford has 8 teams in grades 3-8. These teams already had three games in December and had their 4th game in January.
 - i. Instructional basketball started on Saturday for the 1st and 2nd graders. In addition, there are 3 high school recreation teams.
 - ii. The Referee in Training Program did not take off, but good groundwork and program training was developed for the next season. Next year the hope is to have more teenagers interested in becoming a referee.

 - B. **Parks Maintenance:** There was nothing new to report. Ashford Park's gate has been closed since after Thanksgiving. People can still park outside the facility and walk inside, but cannot drive up into the park.
 - i. The Port-a-let company has not submitted an updated bill.

 - C. **Carol Sing:** This was the first time since COVID that the Carol Sing occurred. The event was festive and very well received by the community. There were about 100 people in attendance.
 - i. New carol singers lead songs, in addition to the arrival of Santa, lighting of the tree, and soup. Music was provided by the Babcock band. There were raffle prizes for individuals who attended such as a wreath, a kid's activity bag, a voucher for a free Christmas tree from Horse Listener's orchard, etc. There was a recommendation to update the Carol Booklet for next year to include all of the songs and larger font.
 - ii. The budget for the event was \$200.00 dollars and the event took in \$108.00 dollars at the door for a total of \$308.00 dollars. \$289.24 was spent on supplies which included food, prizes, decorations, etc. The total profit for this event was \$19.24.

3. New Business

A. Budget Submission: Budget line items were reviewed and a discussion about each line ensued. Due to the increased cost of many items, the APRC deemed it wise to adjust budget lines in order to compensate for the cost of living increases we are seeing nationally. In addition, line items were added to the budget to meet the needs of the Afterschool Childcare program.

- i.** An increase was adjusted into budget lines to support the increased cost of supplies.
- ii.** The budget will also include increased budget lines to ask for supplies needed for the Afterschool Childcare Program. In addition to a line budgeted to fund a Youth Program Director position. This position would oversee the Afterschool Childcare program, summer camps, and preschool programs.

B. Annual Report: The annual report was reviewed. The Ashford Parks and Recreation offer over thirty different activities during the year from bus trips, sports, yoga, swimming lessons, dance classes, etc.

- i.** This past year there was a strong comeback after COVID. Many of the program's participation and income returned to pre-pandemic levels or better.
- ii.** This coming year (2023) the main goal for Ashford Parks and Recreation is to initiate and sustain an After School Childcare Program which was requested by many families in the community. This program would run for 15 hours a week, and initially serve 15 children in need of afterschool coverage from about 3:00-6:00 p.m. This program will be reevaluated frequently to determine areas of growth, additional need, and the potential to increase the program's capacity.
- iii.** Another goal for The Ashford Parks and Recreation is to increase its online presence. Currently, the only method to pay for programs is through cash or check. The development of an online presence would benefit families who would like to register for programs and pay online. In addition, it would help to advertise upcoming events and notify community members in a more efficient way.

4. Closing- Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made and carried unanimously. Meeting ended at 9:16 p.m.