

ASHFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

11/14/22 7:00 PM RECREATION OFFICE

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08. Members present were Sherry York, Dave Roston, Neil Gordon, Amanda Holden, and Leslie Bizilij
 - A. **Public to be heard** - No public present
 - B. **Financial Report** - As of today, the current deposits into the account from 7/1/2022 to 11/14/2022 are \$13,673.
 - i. **Expenses** - about \$36,000 total, which includes recreation director wages, maintenance fees, rental for all program areas, t-shirts for recreation commission, Halloween party supplies, pool rental for swimming lessons, basketball supplies, yoga instructor wages, gymnastics instructor wages, and two swim instructors wages.
 - C. **Minutes** - Meeting from 10/2022 was canceled due to no quorum.
 - i. Motion made to approve the minutes from 9/12/2022. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
2. **Old Business**
 - A. **Fall Program Update & Evaluations-**
 - i. **Family Day-** This year there were two new big initiatives. The first was the Flamingo Band, which received lots of positive comments and feedback regarding their performance. The second is the Circus Moves program. The children who attended seemed to enjoy trying the various activities. The commission is welcoming ideas to revamp Family Day. One suggestion was to reach out to E. O. Smith's drumline. Overall, the commission thought there was a bigger turnout than expected.
 - B. **Evaluate Halloween Party & Turkey Trot-**
 - i. The Halloween Party took in \$340 which was donated back to Camp Connri. There were various activities such as a Trick or Treat Trail, Fortune Teller, Arts and Crafts station, and more. One big hit was the slingshot pumpkin.
 - ii. The Turkey Trot had about 40 people attend. The raffle prizes included various Thanksgiving items such as apples, pies, potatoes, gift cards, and a turkey. These items were donated by various companies and organizations. There was positive feedback regarding the day of the week being Sunday afternoon.
 - C. **Basketball season-**The basketball season started last week. Currently, there are enough participants to submit 8 teams to the Lakes Region (2-3rd/4th-grade boy teams, 2- 5th/6th-grade boy teams, 1-7th/8th-grade boy team, 1-3rd/4th-grade girl team, 1-5th/6th-grade girl team, 1-7th/8th-grade girl team). The Lakes League

includes the towns of Ashford, Bolton, Coventry, Hebron, Mansfield, and Willington. The game schedule should be out before Thanksgiving.

- i. 1st/2nd-grade basketball clinics will start after the New Year. High school recreation basketball teams will start once the high school teams are finalized.
- ii. Volunteer head coaches were willing to help again; most are returning from last season. There are 2 new coaches. There is still a need for volunteers to participate as assistant coaches and help keep the scoreboard.
- iii. A new initiative called The Youth Basketball Referee Training Program is being trialed this season. This idea started from last year's need for referees. Ashford 3rd/4th-grade teams were refed by an adult and a youth. In order to generate more interest, this month there will be an informational zoom meeting for interested teens to talk about how to work with kids and the rules of basketball.

D. Carol Sing 12/4 at 4:30-Plan is to return to the usual format. This includes the arrival of Santa, singing carols, and lighting the tree outside of Babcock library. Inside Knowlton Town Hall will be the Babcock Band and time with Santa. APRC will serve soup, bread, and holiday treats. Holiday door prizes will be given out during this hometown nostalgic holiday tradition.

3. New Business

- A. Meeting Schedule 2023** - The commission will continue to meet on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00. If there is a legal holiday the commission will meet on Tuesday. The schedule will be submitted to the Town Clerk.
- B. No meeting in December** - due to Carol Sing. January 2023 will be the annual budget meeting.
- C. After School Program** - A written proposal was submitted to the Selectman's office today, 11/14/2022. The next step is for all three selectmen to review the proposal and meet with Sherry and Dave to go over the program. At this meeting, they will discuss questions or issues. The three selectmen meet every two weeks.
 - i. Discussion ensued regarding the fact that there are many areas in the proposal where the Ashford Parks and Recreation Commission does not have the authority to make decisions on the program, such as payroll, hourly rate, insurance, etc. It should be noted that the written proposal is a draft and details are subject to change as there may be other areas to look into.
 - ii. An ad was posted in October's Ashford Citizen but was unfortunately pulled in November. This ad led to two interested candidates for the position. One of which has already applied.
 - iii. In addition, although Sherry met with the Board of Education in August, once this program is approved Dave and Sherry will need to meet with the school to discuss logistical things such as building usage, phone usage, dismissal procedures, verifying attendance, etc.

- iv. The commission discussed how the accounting will be managed and how funds will be taken from a parent for childcare. There was a strong preference for checks and to stay away from credit cards. Venmo, or other electronic money transfer programs, were mentioned and will be looked into as potentially an option.

D. Miscellaneous –

- i. Neil Gordon motioned to accept Alaina Philipi's resignation from the commission, accept Andrew Doering as a member of the commission, and accept Dave Roston and Amanda Holden as alternates on the commission. The motion was seconded by Leslie Bizilij. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii. English Dance Class- There has been a decent turnout for the English Dance class. In October there were 16 people. In November there were 11 people. The next class is in December.

- 4. Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made and carried unanimously. Meeting ended at about 8:45 p.m.