Regular Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday, April 24, 2019; 7:00 PM

Merrill Seney room, Town Hall

1. The call to order by Chair Steve Bordua was at 7:04 PM
2. Attendance: Steve Bordua, Cynthia Antos, Robbie L’Heureux, Robert Monahan, Donna Godzik, Kimberly Prescott Absent: Thomas Jourdan, Diane Keefe,

Staff: Miranda Skaradowski, Interim Recreation Director, Dotti Durst, Recording Secretary

1. **Motion K. Prescott seconded by R. Monahan to approve the minutes of March 27, 2019 carried unanimously.**

1. Financial Reports: Acting Director M. Skaradowski-
2. General Fund Budget Report: not in the package
3. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report: reviewed
4. Fund Balance: reviewed

Notes: The Silver Sneakers pass-through amount was for those participants not covered by insurance. The swim program at Koinonia went well with $1,459 coming in. Thompson Together is interested in substituting rubberized mulch instead of wood for play areas, especially at the Rivermill project. Fine pea-stone was suggested as well.

S. Bordua- Recreation has not made capital improvements in recent years. There is a Fund Balance available, possibly for upgrades. There may be away to poll residents, asking which recreation facilities could be upgraded and in what way(s). There may be grants available for upgrades. D. Godzik - perhaps the town should look into handicapped-accessible play areas for less mobile children and modern approaches such as Sensory-play areas not only for children on the autism spectrum but for all children. Once improvements are identified and planned, the BOF can be approached for longer-term capital improvements.

1. Status of Recreation Director: Leslie Munshower will begin as Recreation Director on May 13. Miranda Skaradowski will remain for at least two weeks for orientation.
2. Interim Director’s report: presented in writing. M. Skaradowski reviewed the staff training program that has taken place. All staff have now completed the series of trainings. The cost of Tee shirts for Camp Staff and participants appears to be covered through generous donations by businesses; details about printing are being examined. EASTCONN is working out the details of the staff support they will provide this summer for their camp participants; this number impacts the Thompson camp hiring needs.
3. Update: Branding Implementation Plan, Session 2 on Wednesday, June 5 @ 6PM. The invitation was reviewed by all in attendance; it had been emailed to the commission.
4. New Business: A. Summer Camp Bus Bids: two bids were received. It appears that one bid may be within the budgeted amount for buses. There was discussion of asking another student transportation firm to submit a bid. After review, the consensus was for S. Bordua to verify the possibility of a contract adjustment with Dattco should only one bus per day be needed, instead of the 2 buses per day in the RFP. The bus contract will be signed before Summer Camp enrollment is closed; if enrollment is lower than expected, an adjustment would be needed. When the town divested itself of bus ownership, Recreation was required to add the cost of a bus contract to the amount families are charged for camp. It is hoped that Thompson Summer Camp remains competitive with other options families have available within the area.

B. New Camp Specialist Position: proposal to add a person to bring in music, movement/drama and expression, who would rotate through all the groups each week, filling a gap in what is offered. A candidate is available. This would bring the staff to 23. Consensus: to add this 23rd staff member to summer camp staff.

Note: the list of candidates for Camp will be distributed to the Commission for comment/approval, then be forwarded to the BOS.

C. Boy Scouts at camp: the interest was in conducting as the Special Activity” a Pine Derby with the Camp enrollees, Consensus of the Commission: this year, as a first engagement together, to suggest the Scouts conduct a Nature Trail with narrative along the way, making the enrollees familiar with the trees and plants as well as evidence of wildlife habitat.

1. Other from the Commission/Staff: already covered
2. Correspondence: none
3. Citizens’ Comments- none
4. Announcements: Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 @ 7 PM Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

13. Adjournment by Chair S. Bordua was at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted; Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary Dorothy Durst

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Recreation Commission. Please refer to next month’s meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*