

### **Spring and Summer Programming**

Lee Arthur provided an update on spring and summer programming. She reported that Baseball Camp needs an instructor and has a lead on one. Basketball Camp has been confirmed. Two different sessions of Lego Robotics will be offered, and the Video Game Designer instruction has been dropped because the instructor felt that participants would prefer another Lego Robotics choice instead. Soccer Camp is confirmed however, a few more details need to be worked out. Cory Belden asked if they would be looking for families to host a coach. Lee Arthur indicated yes but more information is needed from Challenger Sport. Youth Golf has been confirmed. Surf Lessons have not been confirmed because there are restrictions currently on beach permitting but that may change. Tennis Lessons have not been confirmed because of no facility access. Group Golf, both Adult and Women's Lessons have been confirmed as well as Adult Yoga.

The Summertime Horyezons Day Camp will not be offered. Lee Arthur explained that she had requested use of Room 100 and 200 at Rye Elementary School and was asked to explore the Rye Junior High School instead. She pointed out that at the last Recreation Commission Meeting she was clear on what was needed to operate the program and indicated that the Recreation Department is currently a department of one. She had informed the Rye School Board that she would be willing to wait for a response because they indicated that they did not know what the requirements would be from the State and their summer school numbers.

Margaret Honda explained that Rye Elementary School will be hosting extended year school again this summer. They do not know what their numbers will be and are currently waiting for guidance from the State, as to who qualifies for the program. Therefore, those numbers could be higher than normal and that is why they cannot commit. Additionally, Principal Lull will be offering other programs this summer to close the gap academically. She pointed out that during the summer their regular school cleaning takes place, and everything is moved around, the floors are cleaned, and the classrooms are utilized to their fullest.

Gregg Mikolaities asked Margaret Honda if they could use the Rye Junior High School. She indicated no because most of the programs are for the lower age children. Cory Belden asked if it was for K-5 and she indicated probably. Stephen King asked if the school knows when they would know their numbers and she indicated no. She said at the first Rye School Board Meeting Lee Arthur was asked when she needed to have an answer regarding the request because the school could not commit, and she expressed mid-April although at the last Rye School Board Meeting, she said she would be flexible. The Rye School Board is hesitant to commit because they have very little control on what is going to come down from the State.

Brett Mulvey asked if the request would be granted in a regular year? Margaret Honda indicated that she did not know but would suggest yes because there would not be as many bodies and no social distancing issues. She pointed out that it was the first year for the request and it is a unique situation. Brett Mulvey asked if she had a sense of how many kids in a normal summer would participate in the extended school year program.

Margaret Honda replied that she does not know but can find out. Brett Mulvey acknowledged the complexities and explained that space was being requested because the Recreation Department does not have its own facility and perpetually needs to utilize Rye Elementary School. He mentioned that in past summers there has not been a lot of activity at the elementary school. Margaret Honda responded that in perpetuity she would say that the rooms are generally available throughout the school year and that this request for summer use and was new. She explained that Rye Junior High School was a great spot with Wedgewood right there, the fields, two sheds with equipment and play structure. Lee Arthur indicated that she would have asked to utilize Rye Junior High School if she felt, she could succeed there. She pointed out that the Recreation Department has had a very tough year and that it has been very stressful. The department does not have their own facility and she advocated moving forward as a community, trying to work together to serve the residents. She posed the question on whether the town would want to build another facility and suggested they would not. Pointing out that residents are looking for services from the Recreation Department that cannot be offered without the necessary resources.

Margaret Honda mentioned that individuals want more access to the schools, but they do not have staff for that purpose and volunteers would be needed. Pointing out that it is not the school's role and mentioned that custodial staff would need to be paid. A lot of collaboration and coordination would be required, and the Rye School Board is willing to take part.

Lee Arthur suggested that a community group be formed to look at the utilization of the schools because everyone is trying to serve the same people. She understood the school's goals but that there had been a significant decline in the school population over the years. When she first came to Rye there was almost 300 students at Rye Elementary School and modular classrooms were being explored. Suggesting from a taxpayer's point of view it does not make sense to build another facility at the Recreation Area if there can be a collaboration with the school. She indicated that the Select Board needs to be involved. She mentioned that she was unaware of the Special School Board Meeting to address the facility use request and was told about the meeting from Becky Bergeron who was informed of the meeting from Bill Epperson.

Cory Belden indicated that it is a challenge to run programs without space, the summer day camp has been very successful, benefited a lot of families and it may not be offered this year. Margaret Honda indicated that the Rye Junior High School is still available.

Lee Arthur was asked what the concern was with utilizing the Rye Junior High School. She explained that when she went to look at the playground at the Rye Junior High School, she was under the impression that there was a new playground and instead there was only two play structures. Where the Rye Elementary School has two age-appropriate playgrounds that she had planned on using, allowing for the natural separation of the groups. She pointed out that the facility is turnkey, all of Rye Recreations equipment is currently there including fridge and phone line. That is important because she does not have the time or staff to prepare a new school. Indicating that she needed 100% of the

pieces to operate this summer because of all the requirements and that is why the junior high was not requested.

She mentioned that it was a push from the start to try to run the program this summer and asked if there is still the possibility of running the program at Rye Elementary School and wanted to know if the Rye School Board would be willing to readdress the issue when they find out their numbers although it may be too late anyway.

Joe Persechino summarized the discussion indicating that that until final numbers are received from Rye Elementary School the program is on hold and moving to the Rye Junior High School is not feasible or any other location because of lack of staff, capability, and time frame. If the Rye Elementary School is not available, the summer day camp program will not be offered. Lee Arthur clarified that the Rye School Board had already voted to deny the request.

Joe Persechino asked Margaret Honda if the request could be revisited. She indicated that she got the sense from Principal Lull that the program could not be accommodated at the school regardless because of the length of time requested. It was clarified that the program would not be offered as it had in the past and other programming would be investigated.

It was discussed using the Rye Junior High School in the future. Lee Arthur indicated that she felt that she did not convey herself well at the last Rye School Board Meeting and that in comparison the Recreation Department and schools are apples and oranges. She understood that the Rye School Board Budget is 13 million dollars with 8 million dollars funded by the Town of Rye and the Recreation Department is responsible for raising the revenue to cover all program expenses and do not have custodial staff to assist with moving equipment. In the past she has borrowed a truck from public works and moved equipment utilizing volunteers. She explained that she is not saying it is wrong but that there is a point where she felt that the public do not understand the inner workings of the Recreation Department or resources available. The circumstances have been compounded by the pandemic.

Leif Honda pointed out that soccer and many other programs utilize parent volunteers. He suggested utilizing the Rye Junior High School and pairing down the programs. He pointed out that he knows a lot of families with young children and the population is increasing not decreasing and they are looking for programs. Indicating that he knows 5-10 people that would be more than willing to help with the summer day camp at Rye Junior High School. Rye Soccer Association has all volunteer coaches, and they only charge a fee to cover their equipment cost. He expressed that it is a missed opportunity to engage people and just say that no one is helping. The Rye Junior High School is not perfect, but he noted that he does not have a perfect situation 9 month out of the year when he is looking for indoor space but makes it work.

Lee Arthur indicated that she did not request use of the Rye Junior High School and requested the space she needed to offer the program. Margaret Honda asked why Rye