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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The Wave Community Center
at Rye Congregational Church
580 Washington Road, Rye, NH

In attendance: Cory Belden, Chairman, Joe Persechino, Todd Cronin, Brett Mulvey, Gregg Mikolaities, Stephen King by phone and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

The Recreation Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes of Monday, April 5, 2021.

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of Monday, April 5, 2021. Seconded by Gregg Mikolaities. Motion carried.

IV. Correspondence

Letter from Lee Arthur re: Her resignation as Recreation Director

Included in the meeting packet was a letter from Lee Arthur resigning from her position as Recreation Director. She indicated that it was not an easy decision as she has spent more than 20 years as Recreation Director for the Town of Rye and have enjoyed working under the direction of the Recreation Commission and Board of Selectman. She indicated that recreation is essential to the community and has witnessed the impact Rye Recreation Programs and Services have had on the lives of Rye residents. She holds those memories close and hopes to continue, as one of Rye Recreation's biggest supporters. She has accepted the position of Sewer Director for the Town of Rye and plans on assisting with the transition and will be available perpetually.

Motion was made by Gregg Mikolaities to accept Lee Arthur's resignation as Recreation Director to coincide with the hiring of a new Recreation Director on or no later than August 1, 2021. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

It was discussed that the job description would be reviewed and updated. The salary grade has already been established and that there would be latitude at which step the position would start at, based on experience. It was noted that City of Portsmouth recently advertised for a Recreation Director and had 60 applicants. Lee Arthur mentioned that it was good timing for a new person to take over because Rye Recreation was significantly impacted by Covid, and it will take some time to get back to pre-Covid activity levels.

The Select Board will meet next Monday and after they accept Lee Arthur's resignation the position can and will be posted. The non-union position will be advertised through state recreation and parks associations, municipal associations, educational institutions, different job sites and by social media. It was discussed posting the position for 3-4 weeks and reviewing the applications the first week in June. The position comes with an excellent benefit package (health and dental insurance, retirement etc.). The salary range will be included in the job posting.

A non-public meeting will be held to review the applications and select candidates to be interviewed. The Hiring Committee will make a recommendation to the Select Board. The job description will be forwarded to the Recreation Commission for input and then forwarded to the Select Board for approval if changes are made.

Financial Reports

Lee Arthur indicated that the financial reports do not include the current year's budget because the Town Meeting is not taking place until July. The Deliberative Session will be held at the Wentworth Country Club Pavilion on June 5, 2021. The recreation budget had \$67,846.51 expended; recreation revolving budget had \$1,728.41 expended; and the patriotic purposes budget had \$0 expended.

The recreation revolving fund was discussed. The fund has been utilized to cover capital expenditures. To expend from the fund there needs to be an appropriation and in certain circumstances a warrant article is required. Gregg Mikolaities provided a background on how and why the fund was established. It was noted that the fund could accommodate future capital expenditures that may be identified in the upcoming Rye Recreation Area Master Plan. Examples of expenditures covered by the fund include the Recreation Area paving and the forthcoming master planning expense.

Other

Margo Daphnis of Willowbrook Avenue has donated a large, oversized leather sectional coach and two accent chairs for The Wave. The Rye Lions have fulfilled a request to donate 20 padded chairs with arms for The Wave valued at \$1359.80. The Recreation Commission expressed their appreciation for the items.

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to accept the donation of a large, oversized leather coach and two accent chairs from Margo Daphnis. Seconded by Todd Cronin. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to accept the donation of 20 padded chairs with arms from the Rye Lions. Seconded by Gregg Mikolaities. Motion carried.

V. Old Business

Recreation Area Master Plan

There is \$10,000 that has been budgeted to update the Rye Recreation Area Master Plan. Cory Belden and Joe Persechino will draft the request for proposal and forward it the Recreation Commission for review prior to the next Recreation Commission Meeting.

Spring and Summer Programming

Included in the meeting packet was the Spring and Summer Programs information. Rye Recreation will be offering Adult, Women's and Youth Group Golf Lessons, Lego Robotics Master, Lego Robotics Jurassic Bricks, Adult Yoga and Meditation, Basketball Camp, Challenger International Soccer Camp, Baseball Camp and Fall Recreational Soccer League. Sign-up commencement is Thursday, May 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. in person and online. It was noted that the Town of Rye has a mask mandate that applies to all municipal buildings and property.

Select Board and Conservation Meetings Update

Cory Belden reported that he attended the last Select Board Meeting and introduced himself as well as updating them on department initiatives including the upcoming Recreation Area Master Plan. Joe Persechino, Brett Mulvey and Cory Belden will meet with the Conservation Commission on May 13, 2021. To start the conversation about utilizing current or future conservation land for recreation purposes. It was note that recreation and conservation have partnered in other communities across the country successfully to provide recreation opportunities to the public.

VI. New Business

Committee Representatives

Cory Belden indicated that he wanted to establish representatives/liaisons between the Recreation Commission and different boards/commissions in town to boost communication. The following assignments were agreed upon: Conservation Commission, Joe Persechino; School Board, Brett Mulvey; Library, Todd Cronin; and Select Board, Cory Belden. It was discussed that the individuals would not have to attend each meeting but would reach out to the board/commission and be the point of contact as well as stay informed of their business. Which could be achieved by reading their meeting minutes. Joe Persechino mentioned utilizing google notifications to determine if items pertaining to the Recreation Commission were discussed by other boards/commissions in town.

Hiring Review Committee

It was discussed that the Recreation Commission would meet in non-public session on June 7, 2021, to review the applications and choose those to be interviewed. The Selectboard had discussed having the Town Administrator, one member of the Select Board and two Recreation Commissioners on the Interview Committee. The Recreation

Commission suggested that all Recreation Commissioners could participate on the Interview Committee with the Town Administer and a Select Board Member. Another non-public could be held to interview the candidates. It was noted that continuity was a must and that committee members would need to commit to the entire process. Lee Arthur will consult with the Town Administrator. The interview selection was set for June 7, 2021, with interviews scheduled as early as June 14, 2021.

Other

The next meeting of the Recreation Commission was tentatively set for Monday, June 7, 2021, at The Wave Rye Recreation Community Center at Rye Congregational Church.

VII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. seconded by Todd Cronin. Motion carried.

**These are draft minutes. Please refer to the minutes of the next meeting for approvals/corrections.*