

Ludlow Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Ludlow Community Center – Recreation Office

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

5:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm. Members present: Sue Pollender, Joe Gurdak, Patty Rumrill, Pam O'Neil and Recreation Director, Howard Paul.

Comments from Citizens:

- School board minutes said that if Mount Holly turns down the money for the afterschool program that they would not be able to attend Summer Recreation. Howie said that was not the case and the parent spoke to Frank. Frank reiterated that Mount Holly students
- Meghan is doing a great job. Very professional, knowledgeable and worked well with community members. Working with all members of the community.
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Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of minutes from January 9, 2013 Meeting: Motion by Patty Rumrill seconded by Joe Gurdak. Unanimously passed.

Director's Report: (See Director's Report for more detail on programming)

- AM Zumba is held Tues/Thurs time at 9:00 am. Attendance varies, however, has both men and women participating. Jacki Brown is the instructor.
- Live Z Dance: Latin inspired zumba class. Nelly Ferland is the instructor.
- Tai Chi: This Sunday afternoon program is at 10:00 am and is under the direction of Joanna Bombadil.
- 5th /6th basketball: This is a continuation of the grades 3 and 4 with some changes. Rims are set to 10 feet and boys use the regulation size ball while the girls will continue to use the 28.5 ball. Schedule includes full schedule and two tournaments. Coaches are Howard Paul and Larry Kelley.
- 3rd /4th grade basketball: This program ended last week. There are also two teams, coached both by Howard Paul. Emphasis of this program is on mechanics and fundamentals.
- K-grade 2 basketball: This program ended this past weekend. Meghan Farrell ran this program on Saturday mornings from 9-10:15 am.
- Cheerleading and Dance: This program for grades 3-6 ends this weekend. The team cheered for all home games and entertained the crowd with their half time show
- Volleyball: Volleyball runs on Thursday evenings from 6 – 8 pm and is going really well. 12 to 15 participants for three teams every week. There is a wide range of ages of people.

- Indoor Soccer: Going well, however is concern about adults playing with high school students. They are looking into expanding the program to break it into two groups. Chris Valente volunteered to oversee this program.
- Holiday Open gym: The program averaged 20 kids per day. Overall, the building got a lot of use over the holidays.
- After school program: The 3rd after-school session has begun. On snow days, the afterschool program runs full time. However, while 19 sign up to attend and there is staff to accommodate all the students, attendance on a snow day is extremely low. They are exploring how to prepare/adjust staff when necessary, however, they want to keep in mind that many parents use the program as daycare and count on the program. There will be one more session of after school program after this one. There has been an issue regarding transportation of the after school program. The MOU provides bussing and transportation of students home. However, they have tried to add field trips and recreation will not pay for transportation. Three trips were declined due to cost. We have do not have that in our budget and it is not part of our MOU.

New Business:

- Black River High school would like the recreation department to explore and install a handicapped ramp at entrance to cafeteria. The small ramp would allow a wheelchair to easily get over the door jam.
- Howard is looking into getting more bleachers for gymnasium; wooden bleachers for entire length of building would be cheaper than portable bleachers. The bleachers would expand to six rows high.

Old Business:

- **Skateboard Park**. It is just not working like we would like it too. A parent complained about out of town students using facility and those who do not use is appropriately. We need to explore other options. Maybe hire an attendant and lock and fence in Skateboard Park, assess a usage fee in order to offset staffing. The committee raised major concerns about how and who to staff. The Recreation Committee would like to hold a Public Forum inviting resident skateboarders and other interested parties to discuss how to best proceed with the continuation of the skateboard park at our next meeting. We will put it in the paper and on LPCTV. Formal invitations to Select board, police and parents at both schools. Howie will moderate.
- **QUEST Summer Program**. Current 8th and 9th graders that are too old for summer rec. Program is a service/educational-based program. Three teachers hired, for 7-week program. If Mt. Holly doesn't support budget vote, their residents would have to pay to attend. The amount of funding available would determine schedule. Quest participants would participate in summer meal program, and then use other venues around town for their activities, not the Community Center.

- Facility is being used as much as possible under our current staffing. Open 10 to 2 Sunday, 9 to 2 on Saturdays, as well as weekly activities.
- The Recreation department will be looking at entrances to the Community Center. The school has been asked to use the side entrance because of ice build up at the other entrance.
- School Crisis Committee meeting met. Town Manager, Frank Heald, Police Chief, Jeff Billings, Superintendent, Bruce Williams, BRHS Principal, Jim Frail, LES Principal, Karen Trimboli and Recreation Director, Howard Paul. They would like Abby group and Rec Department to purchase radios so that they can be aware of what may be happening as it is happening. There has been a practice Lockdown was performed. During that practice, some needs were brought to attention. Some things to be explored are adding shades to the Cafeteria, concerns regarding glass door, and locking mechanisms
- The Recreation Department and BRHS have worked out the after-school/ski program students and the late bus issue. The school now provides Howie with a list so he knows who has permission to stay after school and ride the bus.

Next meeting Date:

Wednesday, March 14, 2013 at 5:30pm followed by a 6:00 Public Forum as part of Comments from Citizens pm at the Community Center.

Motion to adjourn by Patty Rumrill, seconded by Joe Gurdak. Unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:43pm.

Susan Pollender

Joseph Gurdak

Patricia Rumrill

Julie Barr

Pamela O'Neil

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela O'Neil, Secretary