

Ludlow Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Ludlow Community Center – Recreation Office

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

5:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm. Members present: Sue Pollender, Leslie Boyle, Joe Gurdak, Pam O'Neil and Recreation Director, Howard Paul.

Comments from Citizens:

- Comments have been both favorable and critical of the cutting down of trees at Dorsey Park. They were dying and hanging over field. Park does look different, but it is much safer.
- Leslie received a comment about the bathrooms being locked at 6:30 pm., instead of the usual weekend time of 10 pm by the police. Howie will look into it.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes from July 8, 2014 Meeting: Motion by Leslie seconded by Pam. Unanimously passed.

Director's Report:

- Rugby team is going strong. Finished 4th in their last tournament.
- Co-Ed softball had only 4 teams. Howie is in a discussion about combining for next year with Chester or maybe finding another league. Ludlow's Co-ed season finished last week with Ludlow Recreation team winning. We will consider whether or not to continue the league or merge with another town if numbers continue to decrease. However, numbers were down all over the state according to the state commissioner.
- Summer Youth Camp numbers were down this year. Same exact camp but numbers were down 40%. Two grades were moved from Summer Camp to Quest and that had an impact, however Quest's numbers were down as well.
- Swimming lessons: There were 13 kids who signed up with two instructors. It was a little bumpy at start but quickly addressed the issues and went very well. A question was raised as to whether we should put an age requirement of being in kindergarten like our other programs.
- Summer soccer has ended. We will start discussions about next year during the winter in an attempt to cut costs. It is an extremely expensive compared to the other programs that we offer. There was a concern earlier and still

about why one 8th grader could play and another could not. Parent was again given contact information to speak to coaches about the situation.

- Babe Ruth: Ludlow had its own team this year. Some nights it was hard to field a team due to vacations and other family commitments. They forfeited only one game, which was the playoff spot. While there were 17 players, only 9 – 10 finished the season.
- The Summer Concert Series are going pretty well. Only one concert had to be moved indoors because of inclement weather. Concerts are held at the Gazebo at 7 pm unless rain and then they will be held in the community center. While the average attendance for the concerts are 47, we may want to find out if there are other concerts our community would be interested in hearing. Each year it is the same performers over and over again. The town may want to have new performers.
- Tennis: Willy Kennedy gave a weeklong tennis clinic to children of the summer youth camp as part of our sports for life program.
- Pick-up basketball has continued to go well.

Old Business:

- The Recreation committee will hold a Community Forum looking for input around the use of West Hill. Howie will check with Frank Heald, Town Manager for dates that he can attend and we will move forward with setting the date.

New Business:

- The Recreation department needs to set and enforce sign ups for our programs so that we can cancel if we need to or have appropriate numbers of staff. We need to have a better handle on the numbers. For soccer, there will be three nights of sign ups in hopes that parents will be able to attend at least one night or make other arrangements if necessary. The committee will continue to look at ways to encourage parents to sign up when advertised, and not just show up the first day.
- On October 4th, West Hill will be rented for a fifteen band fundraising event. The Pasco Valente Scholarship fundraiser, “Jam at the Dam” will be held from 12:30pm – 10 pm.
- The Dorsey Park tree project cost \$5500, and we have received mixed reviews. However, it is a much safer environment with the taking down of

dead and ill trees. There is still some work that needs to be done on the field. Sod will be coming in next week, and Howie is hoping that they can place the sod in a way to channel water in different directions so that it doesn't pool as much.

- The advertisement for 5th and 6th grade soccer coaches is being sent to the paper. It is a paid position.
- Matt Wood has been offered a contract to be an Athletic Trainer for the high school during the soccer season. The committee does not see this as a conflict since a representative has to be at the field anyway. At this team, there is no plan for the school to hire him for the winter or spring sports season.
- It is the recommendation of the Recreation Committee that before next summer we look at restricting community usage of the Community Center facilities when they are being used for summer camp programs in order to maintain a safe environment for the campers.
- Howie will be out on medical leave from August 27th until early November.

Next meeting Date:

September 16, 2012 at 5 pm at the Community Center.

Motion to adjourn by Joe, seconded by Leslie. Unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:5 pm.

Susan Pollender

Joseph Gurdak

Patricia Rumrill

Leslie Boyle

Pamela O'Neil

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela O'Neil, Secretary