

Ludlow Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Ludlow Community Center – Recreation Office

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

5:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm. Members present: Sue Pollender, Joe Gurdak, Patty Rumrill, Julie Barr, Pam O'Neil and Recreation Director, Howard Paul.

Comments from Citizens:

- None

Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of minutes from November 14, 2012 Meeting: Motion by Pam O'Neil seconded by Patty Rumrill. Unanimously passed.

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

- Beginning in January, AM Zumba time changed to 8:30 am from 9:00 am. There was a significant decrease in numbers the first day, so if attendance doesn't resume, time may change back.
- Live Z Dance: Regularly scheduled for Monday evenings, however, her schedule has been inconsistent at times. This inconsistency seems to be affecting attendance.
- Tai Chi: This is a specialized program, which presently has the participants working with wooden swords.
- 5th /6th girls basketball: There are 13 girls in grades 5 and 6 and therefore, one combined team.
- 5th/ 6th grade boys' basketball: There are a larger number of boys, and therefore there are two teams: 5th grade has 11 boys and 6th grade has 9 boys.
- 3rd /4th grade basketball: There are also two teams. There are 7 on the boy's team and 6 on the girls.
- K-grade 2 basketball: This program is a mix for boys and girls and has 14 participants.
- Cheerleading and Dance has 11 participants in grades 2-6.
- Volleyball: Volleyball runs on Thursday evenings from 6 – 8 pm and is going really well. Each week there are enough participants for three teams every week. There is a wide range of ages and a variety of people.
- Indoor Soccer: going well. Averaging between 20 to 24 players a week, soccer is going well. Presently, adults and high school boys and high school girls all play together. They are looking into expanding the program to break it into two groups.
- 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, we do need to keep in mind that many parents use the program as daycare and count on the program.

Old Business

- The soccer parent concerns discussed at last meeting seems to be resolved. Howie contacted both parents and gave students awards and sweatshirts.
- Meghan Farrell is doing well. She has integrated well into the programs and the department. She has recently received her personal training license. One of our local residents, Carl Pavano has been looking to hire her to be his personal trainer while he is in Ludlow.
- Sue inquired about dog obedience classes. In the past, the Indoor Dog Obedience class worked well. Sue asked about the possibility of bringing someone in to run a class again.

New Business:

- During basketball season, there is a need more seating in community center gym. The gym is completely packed with just one game and cheerleaders. There is a need to explore additional seating, potentially two more sets of three row bleachers.
- Discussions have begun about developing a summer recreation program for students entering grades 9th and 10th. This program would be looking to address needs of potentially at risk students and engaging them in a variety of activities. For example: A unit in carpentry may have a teacher teaching math concepts connected to carpentry and a community member working with kids to build something. Other examples could be units on creative writing /journalism, car maintenance, learning a foreign language or deep sea fishing. This program would be both educational and experiential. A group is meeting tomorrow, Jan 10th, with students at Black River to see what their interest level in a program like this may be. The group will also be exploring possible opportunities for students to receive high school credit. This program includes a partnership with Ludlow Rotary.
- Carl Pavano has purchased and donated a portable pitching mound and new batting screens to the Black River Varsity Baseball team. He has done a lot to support the younger baseball players in the community Little League and wanted to expand that support our older student-athletes.
- Our youth hockey program starts tonight, January 9th. It is in its second year with 20 kids each Wednesday. This in-house league is designed with one hour of instruction and one hour of playing time.
- There was a discussion about the transition from elementary recreation teams to participation in Middle school teams. Most recreation programs are later at in the evening so students go home and then return for team

practices/games. Middle school students' practice/play afterschool. There seems to be a higher number of students hanging out at the community center after practice/games. There are also beginning to be issues with students hang around and being supervised. The school's late bus does not leave until 4:00 pm. There seem to be students using bus and not participating with any activities, either school or recreation. Particularly this first Ski day. The community center gym was filled with kids from ski program waiting for parents to pick them up. The recreation department is not set up to nor should they, be responsible for supervising middle/high school student who have stayed afterschool for school activities and are waiting for a ride home. Students should not be hanging around just to hang around. Howie will set up a meeting with the Black River Principal to discuss the supervision of students, both Ludlow and Mt. Holly, until the late bus arrives. In addition, we should consider more lighting around the outside of community center because it is difficult to see outside if the lights are on inside.

- Pam asked about any security/crisis meetings held with the school training last year. There have been conversations about security. We would ask that Howie talk with town and school about security/crisis planning of the building.

Next meeting Date:

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 5 pm at the Community Center.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Susan Pollender

Joseph Gurdak

Patricia Rumrill

Julie Barr

Pamela O'Neil

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela O'Neil, Secretary