

# RECREATION COMMISSION

## Town of Sandown, NH

### **Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Date:** March 20, 2024

**Meeting Location:** Rec Building

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**Members Present:** Chairman George Blaisdell; Chris Longchamps; Heidi Dyer

**Also Present:** Becky Francis, Recreation Director

**Members Not Present:** Ben Sharpe

Meeting was called to order by Blaisdell at 6:40pm.

Longchamps made a motion to accept minutes as written from January 17, 2024.

**Motion By:** Longchamps

**Seconded By:** Dyer

**In Favor:** All

**Motion passes unanimously.**

***Discussion of new business begins.***

### **Contract between Sandown Recreation and The Sandown Baseball/ Softball Association. Discussion of quote from Kane Hardscape and Construction**

Francis and members discussed specifics of the Memorandum of Understanding between Rec and Baseball. Dyer said the water spigot on the outside of the shed is not working, and Francis explained that Allied Clearwater stated there must be lots of water quality testing done before they can use the spigot, and it may be more than they want to take on at this time. Members discussed whether they could use the water for washing things without water testing. Francis said the Health Inspector will inspect the snack shack if they choose to use it this year. Members and Francis also discussed when the fields can begin to be used for the season, and agreed upon the first week in April and will include an inspection of the field before allowing use by teams, but cannot stop residents or pick-up games from using the fields before then. Francis also is asking to have baseball's schedule before their games begin. Members agreed to make final decisions when Sharpe is in attendance, and Francis said she will make noted changes and will review it at the next meeting.

### **Parent Guide for Summer Camp 2024 review**

#### ***Late Care***

Francis explained that they will be holding camp for 7 weeks, as not to conflict with the kindergarten camp at the school. Francis and members discussed the logistics of offering late care, such as preregistration requirements, and the cost being \$20 per week. Members and Francis discussed staffing, and Francis explained that it will be set up in the staff's existing schedule, and said she can cancel the program if its not popular, but is confident it will be successful because parents are saying camp ended too early.

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### ***Other Changes***

Francis said she changed ratios from 1-8 to 1-10, updated the behavior code and the MESH Counselor. Dyer suggested posting these items on RecDesk so they don't have to update it unless there are major policy changes. Francis also said campers must bring a cold lunch, so she is not microwaving food, and parents cannot drop-off after 9am without a doctor's note. Members discussed late drop-off policy.

### ***Returning Summer Staff***

Francis said they don't have a lot of returning staff yet, and can only take 70 kids per week so far. Members felt that was fine since its still early in the season. Francis said she has 1 lifeguard so far, and members discussed staffing and roles of lifeguards vs. counselor/coordinator staff.

### **Spring Programing update, Farmers Market, Family Game Nights, Walking Group, Aquarium Family Trip**

Francis said April is very busy with programming and they have lots coming up.

### ***April Vacation Programming***

Rec will be offering a bus trip to the New England Aquarium, flower pot decorating class, and Bingo for Books event, all to be held during April school vacation week.

### ***Walking Groups***

Francis shared that they are hosting walking groups that walk to the Depot Rd playground in Hampstead via the railroad beds, and around the circle at the Rec center for mothers with babies and/or young children. They only meet in nice weather.

### ***Coding Club***

Coding club is going well, and the library brings the technology and set up stations for the kids.

### ***Farmer's Market***

Planning is going well, with 7 vendors signed up so far. Francis said only 2 of those are selling vegetables, so she may consider changing the name to "Artisan Market." They also have musicians willing to play for tips, as well as looking for food trucks to attend. Francis is hoping to get more farms to attend, and reminded that members have the right to choose which vendors they want for the market. Members discussed having the market hosted past the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August.

### ***Family Game Nights***

These events are going well, and have a great turn out.

### **Future Event ideas for recreation**

#### ***Circus Smircus***

Francis explained that they are a company who teachers circus skills to kids and helps the kids run their own circus, and has reached out to them but doesn't know pricing. She is hoping to host an afterschool program and charge to cover the cost of the classes. Francis also hopes to host an afterschool theater group.

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***Archery Tag***

Francis said she looked into archery tag, but it was unfortunately too expensive. Members discussed looking into traditional archery, and Francis explained her idea for Nurf Wars, with inflatable items for players to hide behind while playing with Nurf guns. Francis also explained that players will need supplies and gear such as eye protection.

***Zombie Run***

Francis explained her idea for a Zombie Run, with runners using a course with people dressed as zombies jumping out, and hopes to host this during Halloween season. Members and Francis discussed options and ideas.

***Fishing Derby***

Will be on April 27<sup>th</sup> and Rec will be doing prizes and bubbles.

***Discussion of old business begins.***

**Construction of pavilion at the Ed Garvey Recreation Center**

Longchamps stated that he unfortunately does not have time to dedicate to the pavilion at this time.

**Equipment Replacement for Miller Field**

Francis said they are trying to figure out the budget for equipment replacement, and members discussed using the revolving account. Francis shared that she would like to install a tether ball set-up, but fears it may cause too many issues, and said she is looking for other options. Members and Francis discussed updating the basketball court and adding a possible pickleball court. Francis said she will look into pricing for pickleball nets.

Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.

***Motion By:*** Blaisdell

***Seconded By:*** Dyer

***In Favor:*** All

***Motion passes unanimously.***

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024.

**Submitted By:**

*Jessica Manning*

Jessica Manning

Recording Secretary