MINUTES
TOWN OF NORTON

Board / Committee: Parks and Recreation

Meeting Date: 11-05-2019 Time: 7:00pm
Meeting Location: Lunch Room

Members & Staff Present:
Audrey Moschella, Carol Zwicker, Heather Creegan, Bob Salvo, Michael Young, Mark Sweeney, Janice Roberge

Members Not Present:
Rob Kerr

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes from the 6/20/19 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Bob moved to accept them as written, Mark seconded; all unanimous.

Meeting Motions / Actions and Summary of Discussions:

Motion:

Discussion:
REMOTE PARTICIPATION POLICY:
Bob Salvo explained how remote participation works in Mansfield, with their set-up of technology. He also stated that he believes that it is an excuse for people to sit at home when they have signed up for a Board, and they should make every effort to show up. With the additional alternate members, and the quarterly meetings, Parks and Rec has enough people to pass a quorum, which has been a problem in the past. He would like vote to decline, and revisit later when the Town has disclosed the equipment, and systems that will be available. Audrey believes we should not pass it without being provided technology to make it work. Mark Sweeney states that using such technology at work means people miss some things/nuances, but states there are times when he would like to participate but is unable to physically be at the meeting. But he would like to pass it and revisit it later.

Mark made a motion to support; Bob seconded for discussion. Audrey called for a vote. Michael and Mark vote yay; Heather, Audrey, and Bob opposed; motion fails.

HALLOWEEN DEBRIEF:
Rain moved the Trunk or Treat and Festival to Sunday, Nov 3; parade continued as planned. Turnout was bigger than expected given the weather. Approximately 50 of the 80 participants showed up. Bob suggests trying to get a rain date for the traffic permit, but given that the traffic
permit didn’t come through from the State until the day before and does NOT have an option for a rain date, Sharon explained that this is not possible.

Rosemary enquired if there were issues with the staging at LJ’s Car Wash, and it seemed that things went smoothly.

Pleasant Street continued to be an issue with people ignoring the one-way/being disgruntled about the one-way. Attleboro PD blocked it with a cruiser; Ray had his expandable barriers, and Audrey refused to let people go through.

The Halloween Festival had an estimated 1000 people, marking it as a success. Community participation was up, and the Trunk or Treats were wildly creative. Rosemary would like to send LifeChurch a thank-you note. Sharon provided the pastor’s name and the church’s address.

Rosemary stated that in her opinion, the parade went well.

EVERETT LEONARD POOL/PARK SUMMARY:
Rough numbers between events, grants, and passes, the Pool actually made about $1000 this year. Pool did approx. $15k in rentals while the pool was open; approx. $11k after the pool was closed, $3800 in pool passes, lifeguard salaries were approximately $20.1k. $30 in concessions. The goal was to keep the pool self-sufficient. Sharon has a meeting on Monday with Easton’s Park and Rec to get a better understanding of how to use swim lessons to help the pool continue to be self-funding.

We have 5 rentals for next summer, and Sharon advised them of the 2019 rates and said she needs to have the commission set the 2020 rates so she can let these renters know with certainty what they will be paying. Audrey wanted to discuss other models for utilizing the pool, because she remembers going to something called Summer Rec, which was essentially a few hours of camp-type activities a day. Bob would like us to draft a proposal to bring to the BOS for the future growth of P&R, such as making Sharon F/T and getting an assistant, since adding any additional programs to the Rec line-up stresses Sharon’s already too-short time in the office. We need to determine what the difference between “camp” and “program” are. Bob detailed a little more about the presentation we would need to submit to the BOS. Sharon found a box of photos and old documents from past Rec programs, and posted on FB soliciting people to come look through them. Two past counselors came to look, and offered to let her pick their brains for future programs, if needed.

The Town Hall ad-hoc committee asked the Dept. heads to list what they’d like to see if money wasn’t an object, and Sharon listed the camp programs she’d like to run. In October’s televised meeting (available on YouTube), the committee felt that the Town’s Camp needs are adequately met in other municipalities. The Board disagrees with this assessment. Sharon points out that if the Town supported more of these programs, they would bring in more participation and eventually become self-funding and would keep Norton funds in Norton.

The Ad-hoc Committee felt that between Finburg, Foxboro, Attleboro, and Mansfield, area camp needs are adequately met. Sharon feels that townsfolk should be investing that money into their own town. She also pointed out that because of the timing of Founder’s Day, the pool, and summer camp, she absolutely would need more hours and an assistant.

Sharon stated that the pool may need to close once the life guards go back to college because staffing the pool with lifeguards for those two weeks was a struggle. She will make a concerted effort to hire more high school lifeguards but there is currently a nationwide shortage of guards.

Rosemary questioned who pays for the police detail if a rental requires it; Sharon responded that if the party is big enough to require it and DOES NOT have a waiver from the Norton PD, then it is the responsibility of the renters to pay for a police detail.
Sharon advises that we keep the rates for 2020 the same as 2019. Mark motions to keep it the same and Audrey seconds the motion. Unanimous vote passes the motion, covering the rental hours.

We had shorter rentals (3hrs vs. 6hrs), but overall made more money on the rentals, and the shorter rentals opened up more access for the pass holders, which pleased people. Sharon will look into renting space at concessions to various town restaurants. Bob has two glass-doored commercial refrigerators he can donate to the concessions stand; Sharon states that there are two residential style refrigerators on site, one for staff, and one for renters. Sharon would like to table the decision on the donation until the next meeting.

Bob asked how the pass system works; Sharon explained that it’s a pass + photo ID verification.

POOL AND PARK BEHAVIOR REGULATIONS
Over the summer, we had a problem with a free family pass holder came in with too many people than the pass should cover, and there was a boy who was trying to throw a younger boy into the pool. The Pool has strict regulations about this because of the cement, and the parents were encouraging the older boy to do this, the lifeguards tried to stop it to no avail. When the older boy couldn’t get the younger boy into the pool, the older boy put the younger boy in a headlock and punched him in the face. As a result, Sharon would like to review the behavioral policies, because there are two for the Town - one for Parks and Rec and one for Norton youth sports teams.

Heather asked if we have signs at the pool with the most important rules (e.g., the discretion of the lifeguards for anything disruptive), and we do not believe we do. Adding that, and perhaps a log/signed acknowledgement of the rules and regulations of the pool. There needs to be a safety/rules training with the lifeguards (e.g., if someone vomits in the pool, how many people to admit on a family pass, etc.).

Heather motioned to keep the rules separate for the ball parks and the pool, Bob seconded, unanimous yays.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Dec 8, 5pm, Mark Sweeney promised to give us whatever we need. Committee members should report to the Common by 3:30.
Highway will be doing the hanging of the lights, and Keith will bring by the Santa House. Bob mentioned that the house will go in the street because of the new irrigation systems and grass.
Sharon will talk to Keith about where specifically the house will go.
No live Nativity set, as the donkey was unavailable AND it was going to cost $500 for one hour. Santa and Mrs. Claus are all set.
Sharon is looking for something else instead of the animals - a live demonstration from Premiere Martial Arts, gingerbread decorating, and On The Barre dancers.
RE: hot chocolate: Sharon is going to use St Mary’s two insulated hot water urns/carafe, there’s a possibility to see if Bagels and Cream will donate the cocoa, the urns, and bring it to the event. Audrey is going to confirm. Norton Singers will be there, Sharon will reach out to the bell ringers, the Norton Community Lions will be there. Sharon will check with Keith about which tree belongs to the Lions.

PIZZA BATTLE
Moved to Feb because date was accidentally given to the Boy Scouts.

OTHER BUSINESS, FOUNDERS DAY
New turf fields at the Yelle mean that the location of Founder’s Day needs to move.

OTHER BUSINESS, CUPBOARD OF KINDNESS;
Would prefer if we do a drive, it is after the holidays, perhaps something tied to Valentine’s Day

PRINCESS TEA is Saturday, Nov 7.
FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR EDWARD JONES, P&R is going to offer free financial advising classes, one weeknight a month on different topics. Rep knows he can't push his company, but he is doing these free of charge.

FOXBORO JCs are collecting gift cards for low-income veterans. Sharon sent the event to veteran coordinator, because she thinks this is a good event that Norton would succeed at.

*****BASEBALL FIELDS

Four fields in town; but Lion's Field is on Conservation land, so the conversation is in flux. Conservation has decided they are taking over the Lion's field, without informing P&R. Town's agreement with NYBS is that if NYBS maintains the field, they can use the fields for free. If they rent the fields, P&R gets a cut of the rental fees. With this change, NYBS came to Sharon. Lions is only used for practices and games; it is not used for rentals. Sharon has talked to Mike Y because NYBS is concerned. They spent $4k on maintaining the field, and if they also have to sign a lease and pay to rent, they may not be able to continue use. *****

List of Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- 6/20/19 Minutes
- Remote Participation Policy
- Norton P&R League and Program Behavior Policy
- ELP Pool Rules and Regulations

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Heather Creegan

Minutes approved by the Board or Committee on:

Chairman/Vice-Chairman Signature: [Signature]