

Approved  
11/2/22

## Northfield Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 5th 2022 @ 6:30pm

#### 1) Call to Order

A. 6:35pm Chair (JR) called to order and quorum present.

B. Present: Josh Roman (JR) - Chair; Courtney Lawler (CL); Chelsea Depault (CD) – Treasurer; and Laura Fries (LF). Stacy Bond (SB) – Director. Guest: Kate Pontius

#### 2) Citizen/guest input

A. Recreation Commission is interested in forming an Advisory Group to investigate the possibility of a pool being constructed at the Kiwanis Park (or potentially other locations). SB invited Kate Pontius to the meeting to discuss her interest in helping form an Advisory Group under the direction of the Recreation Commission. She seemed interested in the idea and look forward to possible next steps.

#### 3) Minutes

A. 9/7/2022 meeting minutes reviewed and corrected. Motion made by CL to accept amended minutes with a second by CD. LF abstained. Motion passed. Will vote on minutes from meeting on 9/20/22 at next meeting.

#### 4) Directors Report

A. We came back to the directors report after going through the line items first and if there was anything extra to add, SB would add in here.

B. Weight room at Pioneer is only added topic. Everything should be all set other than need to know how to pay Pat Holloway (a time card?). CD will find out. SB will be scheduling a time to meet with both Pat and Gretchen Licata in a couple weeks before it opens on November 1<sup>st</sup> (will need to add that to social media and marquis sign).

#### 5) Chairs report

A. JR discussed some ideas with Girls on the Run and long-term goals for the Rec Com.

B. An email from both Gretchen Licata and Judy Wagner were received by JR about how glad they both are at the finished result of the portable toilet (location and fencing). Phew!

#### 6) Girls on the Run

A. JR discussed this national program that has a good reputation and wondered if we can bring it to Northfield. He reports it is mainly for the younger crowd with a minimum of 8 girls of all abilities that train 2x/week working towards a 5K. Closest other programs seem to be in Deerfield and Athol. Offer it in the spring? Problem is that it is costly at around \$160 each child. Maybe a survey to parents to see if

there is interest? CL will check in with friend who runs the one in Athol to see how they tackle the cost issue.

#### 7) Long Term Goals for the Rec Commission

A. JR bringing up this point to keep in our thoughts about how we want this to look down the road. SB has an information sheet (that needs to have some updates) that gives us (and residents) an idea of what we are doing throughout the year (it is also posted on the town's website). We can alter it at any time.

#### 8) Summer Program Ideas

A. SB reports that she has just scratched the tip of the iceberg with some documents provided by Andrea Llamas on some structure to set up for a summer camp. Will likely need help from committee members to get this going as there is a lot to set up ahead of time.

#### 9) Basketball sign up

A. SB will shoot for the beginning of November to begin basketball sign ups. Start asking around for coaches. CL is willing to coach the senior team with another coach (Scott Martineau?). CD is also willing to share coaching responsibilities with another adult for the smaller skills and drills kids (First Hoops?). The league says ideally teams are separated by gender, but if we lack players it can be co-ed. Practices can be a mix also. 5:30pm is the earliest we can utilize the gym at NES due to afterschool program. Costs will likely be the same as soccer was.

B. SB reports that Scott Martineau would like to start a skills and drills basketball practice soon. Committee said that isn't an issue except that maybe wait until soccer season is over. SB will check in with Scott and see about scheduling.

#### 10) Cheerleading sign up

A. SB has spoken with Magen McDougall and signups for beginner cheerleading will be at the same time as basketball. Their practices will likely be at 5:30 on Wednesdays in the cafeteria if the gym is being utilized, which it likely will. Cost will be \$45 to cover t-shirts and SB needs to order pom-pom's.

B. The ordering of pom-pom's instigated a discussion about how much the Director can spend without needing to vote on it. A motion was made by CD and a second by CL to allow up to \$500 to be spent by the Director without the need to vote on it. Motion passed.

#### 11) Low-income Scholarships for registration fees

A) The committee agreed that we would not turn away residents to participate in activities based on their income. We had two families that we did not charge based on their inability to pay. Going forward we will try to have a special line item for donations to help with this. CD will look into how to set this up. Also, we are expecting a donation from the Kiwanis from the Great River Challenge and need to know where that money can reside for proper use. Maybe there is also a section on the registrations for others to donate as well.

#### 12) Treasurer's Report

A. Waiting on monthly numbers from town to see how programs are going.

**13) MyRec.com update**

A. Stacy is still working on her knowledge on proper use of the website. There is a listing of two programs on website currently and will encourage people to check out site soon to add their accounts and will slowly roll out registration for basketball to committee members first to try to work out kinks beforehand. Website is: [www.northfieldrec.com](http://www.northfieldrec.com)

**14) CPC Update**

A. Bob Emberley is liaison for CPC and was not at meeting tonight.

**15) Fall Soccer update**

A. Both JR and CL report things are going well for soccer. Will investigate a skills team for next year (but needs to be agreed to by whole league). All agreed that our focus is on the education of the sport and inclusiveness for the kids to be able to play, and whatever we can do to keep it positive and flexible (for both kids and parents) and not have lack of funds be an obstacle for some families.

**15b) Coaches thank you gifts**

A. JR had a nice idea of ordering glass cups with our logo on it and it saying "Thank you" on the back. Roughly \$10 per cup to give to coaches and use for others down the line. Order approximately 35 to get a discount. Committee agreed to purchase.

**16) Adult pick up soccer update**

A. All agreed that this has been well attended. Will shift come November to pick up basketball. Will need to update marquis sign in front of town hall.

**17) Adult exercise class update**

A. SB reports it seems to be going well and we are making a little money on it. Approximately 8 participants each week. Laura Rooney has certain people designated to help her with initial paperwork and help closing up each week in exchange they get their class that day for free. Amy Neil and Margaret Roberge volunteered. Meaghan Ahearn is also willing to do this if needed.

B. There is some discussion about residents interested in a more active class and Laura has proposed a fitness dance class that could happen on Mondays from 6-7. Due to space constraints at the NES gym, SB has an email out to First Light about being able to access one of their rooms for these classes in the PM. Waiting on response.

**18) Kiwanis Park update**

A. No recent activity to report. Still looking to move forward with it.

**19) Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance**

A. CL had an idea of a Halloween costume swap. Will work with LF and see if they can make it happen soon at NES.

B. Also, CL approached First Light about trying to get a group rate for x-country skiing to offer to residents. Waiting on response.

20) Schedule next meeting (November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm)

21) Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm made by CL and second by CD. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy E. Bond

Recreation Commission Director