

Norwich Recreation Council Minutes  
May 13, 2015

Attending: Jill Kearney-Niles, Laura Duncan, Amy Downard, Ben Forbush, Karin Dwyer, Jill Collins

Minutes- Laura will send out minutes to everyone from the April meeting. We can approve them at the June meeting. Jill Collins kindly recorded these May minutes.

Spring and Summer Programs

-Nicole Butters will be offering an Art and Poetry Camp through the rec dept for 1 week this summer. It will run from 12:30-3:30 either the first or second week in August and will be for 4-7th graders.

-3/4 Baseball has been a little problematic this spring. There are three teams but due to kids' busy schedules, our teams are often down players. The Cal Ripkin League (which we switched back to late winter after initially deciding to join the Upper Valley League) is player pitch which has resulted in the frequent walking of batters so kids are not able to practice batting or fielding. The Upper Valley League has coach pitch for 3 innings with the remainder player pitch, so kids get to practice batting, fielding and pitching. There have been a few complaints lodged with Jill about scheduling conflicts, long games and lack of full teams. Jill feels we should again consider switching to Upper Valley League next year, at least for Minors (3/4 Baseball). Will talk to our Coaches & may informally intercept survey parents at end of season to get more feedback.

Touch-A-Truck- Scheduled for Wednesday May 21 from 2-3:30. Jill has sent notices home with K-3 kids at MCS, sent notices to the nursery schools, put it on the list-serve and put out a sign in front of Tracy Hall. Jill has food organized, has all the different departments scheduled to come and will ask Mr. Bill to keep the turnaround clear that afternoon. Laura, Amy and Jill C agreed to help out at Touch-A-Truck.

Labor Day Road Race- Jill wondered if timing system worked well for last year. General consensus that it did. Jill reminded council members of the need for their presence and help on the day of the race. Laura is going to make contact with a local music instructor and some young musicians to ask about live music at the finish.

Action Item-Laura will talk with Tucks Rock Dojo about music at Labor Day Race

Action Item-Jill K-N will get the same type of timers we used last year

Finalizing Survey Questions- Sub-committee of Laura, Reese, Ben, Karin and Jill K-N will schedule a time to go over Reese's initial survey draft before the June Rec Council Meeting. Thank you to Reese for the time outside of meetings that he has put into this. Jill K-N mentioned she does want to get a survey out for spring feedback which spring boarded into a brief conversation about the purpose of the survey--is it to get feedback about performance satisfaction with the rec dept or to identify a strategic plan? Should our strategic plan be focused more directly on a few key projects, namely the Norwich Pool, ice rink, parking at Huntley? The sub-committee will report back in June.

Action Item- Sub-committee will focus on the direction of the survey and questions to include

Old Business-

-Grants- Jill K-N has applied for a Women's Club grant in the amount of \$1500 to replace a piece of playground equipment at the Huntley Meadow playground. Karin will apply for a PTO grant to replace the liner for the ice rink. Karin will try to make this a standing grant request as the liner will need to be replaced every other year. She believes PTO grants are capped at \$1000, so the remaining \$200-500 for the liner will need to come out of the fund that was raised to support the rink.

Action Item-Karin will apply for PTO grant for the rink liner

-Parking at Huntley-This has been very problematic lately with up to 20 cars forced to park along Turnpike Road & Moore Lane due to lack of parking spots in the parking lot at Huntley Meadow. There is real concern about the danger in this situation. It was raised by a community member at the Selectboard meeting on May 13. The response from Neil Fulton was that the cost to replace the bridge from the Legion Building was in the \$150,000-\$200,000 range and the issue was dropped. Consensus among council members was that either we need to find a way to increase parking or limit the amount of activities scheduled at Huntley Meadow. Since we will not stop the recreation programs we offer there, it means cutting income generating field rentals. Clearly, Jill K-N is reluctant to take this step as it will impact the Recreation Department budget. Jill K-N said that the Hanover High Softball Team will not be using the field next year and that will help the congestion. She also said she usually talks to Lightning Soccer about fall field rentals in June, so time is of the essence in making a decision. Phil Dechert at one point said there was a woman at CRREL who had offered to do the required survey and analysis for the town. Jill K-N is going to talk to Phil about moving this forward.

Action Item-Jill K-N talk to Phil Dechert about bridge issue and parking problem

Next Meeting- Next meeting is set for Wednesday June 10 at 7pm.