

## NORWICH RECREATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

from Wednesday, October 14th, 2015

Present: Laura Duncan, Jill Collins, John Girard, Karin Dwyer & Jill K N

**Sept. 9th, '15 NRC Minutes** were approved with one small correction - At the bottom in "New Business" the last sentence should read, " 'Some' (not other) towns don't have enough kids to play two games. When 'Huntley Parking' was reviewed from the Sept. minutes, the idea was bounced out that we should count the maximum number of cars that can park at Huntley Meadow on a busy day when the lot is full. (Since our meeting Karin was there on such a day and counted/calculated that 70 vehicles fit into the upper lot and 40 in the lower lot for a total of 110 spots).

**Action Item: Jill** will ask Andy how many lined spots he could fit in. If there is a big enough differential we will ask Andy to try lining it early this spring in hopes of accommodating more vehicles.

**Baseball** - Cal Ripken vs. Upper Valley Recreation Association Baseball. Karin shared results of the baseball survey she put together that went out to all 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade players' families, post-season. A huge thank you goes out to Karin for putting together the survey, and then tallying and sharing the results with us. The feedback received was a wide range of responses, without any conclusive sway to one league or another. The good news is that of the 51 respondents, 93% were very satisfied. John Girard reminded us that our focus should be the best baseball experience for all participants. He felt that in Cal Ripken there is too much standing around and that the strongest players are favored at the expense of weaker ones. He pointed out that the drawback of not playing Cal Ripken, however, is that players couldn't try out for the All-Star team if they hadn't participated on a spring Cal Ripken team. Offering an end of season tournament could be a good alternative. John G. also felt that the Upper Valley league rules are safer and better. Players get more action in 3rd/4th grade in particular when coaches pitch the first few innings. Starting the first three innings with Coach-Pitch gets players batting and on base with more action and fun for everyone. It was concluded by all that a 1 & 1/2 hour Game time limit is a great idea. John G. concluded that he felt that UVRA is a better program for learning baseball skills and keeping all players engaged with more action. Jill agreed.

**Action Item: Jill** will talk to the Hanover reps since there was talk of Hanover switching to UVRA and she will also find out what league other area towns will be in. This should help us decide how to proceed next spring. A baseball meeting will be set up if needed, to include Dean Lacy, John Sherman, Karin Dwyer and John Girard.

**Programs** - It is wonderful that our numbers were way up for Fall Youth Soccer. Next year we will move up the registration deadline in order to know team numbers sooner. That way we can recruit more coaches early to plan for smaller teams (potentially multiple teams for 3/4 & 5/6 grade splits, if necessary. We will need to make it clear in June that we have a new earlier deadline for fall soccer. Basketball registration has been open on-line for a few weeks. Basketball is more limited regarding expanding to more teams due to the finite gym space available.

Jill is still **looking for 1st/2nd Grade Basketball Coaches - any ideas?**

Everyone agreed that it was okay to add a Lego class and a Teen/Tween Fitness offering for late fall.

**Halloween** - Laura kindly agreed to line up and pick-up/deliver 450 donut holes for our Halloween Celebration on Sat., 10/31 at 3pm in front of the Norwich Inn. Brian Tompkins agreed to be our key Face-painter but we need at least two more helpers. Jill will attend and bring 4 gallons of cold cider.

**Action Item: Jill** will hunt for more and also a person to volunteer as the Donut-Hole Game / Station Master.

**New Business** was brought up, and Karin mentioned a conversation she had with Lucinda, the Norwich Town Librarian. Lucinda feels there is an after school problem in that many children are being told by their parents to go to the library after school, unattended.

Other New Business - Karin has a PTO Grant Application. She plans to complete it, asking for funding for rink improvements - shovels, three "Please Stay Off the Ice" signs, and maintenance supplies, etc..

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday Nov. 10th** at **7pm** in the Tracy Hall Conference Room. We moved to Tuesday to avoid the 11/11 Veteran's Day Holiday, and also in hopes that Chris C. can make Tuesdays. **Please let Jill know if you have any suggested agenda topics for November.** Agenda will be sent out on/by Monday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. Reese's long range Recreation Planning Survey will be on the agenda as the main item. Also a comprehensive trail map of Norwich should be discussed. Also a quick review/explanation of the proposed FY '17 Recreation Budget.

**Action Item: Jill** will send out (has now sent) the proposed FY '17 Recreation Budget to all Recreation Council Members.