

Vassalboro Recreation Committee Meeting

Monday, August 21, 2023

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
 - a. Present: Community Program Director Karen Hatch, Rec Committee Members AnneMarie Fortin, John Fortin, Vickie Limberger, Melissa Olson, Kevin Phanor, Ryan Reed, and Kris Stewart. Select Board member Mike Poulin. Members of the Public Karen Howard and Jessica Murray.
 - b. Approval of minutes
 - i. No minutes as last meeting was a soccer planning workshop and minutes were not taken
3. Soccer Season
 - a. Current number of sign-ups
 - a. 72 signs up so far, final number was 100 last year
 - b. Teams: 2 pre-k/k, 1 ½ (splitting into smaller groups at practice and games), 2 ¾, 1 ⅝. ⅝ is close to break up into two teams.
 - b. Pre-K should be 4 years old and Kindergarten.
 - a. Three years olds have been permitted historically if their adult assists, which is the policy soccer is currently using. Karen Hatch suggested only allowing three-year-olds if they would turn 4 by the same cut-off the school uses (October 15th). No decision for future seasons was made at this time.
 - c. Need breakdown of how many pay full price of \$35, \$25, and free
 - a. Item was not discussed
 - d. Teams- Concern about 1/2 age group. Need to make more teams
 - a. Plan this year was to have one head coach and have the assistants run stations at practice on one of the larger fields. This will allow the kids to get to know all of the coaches so they are more comfortable when they are split on gameday.
 - e. Coaches- are there enough?
 - f. Sponsors
 - a. Karen Howard passed along sponsorship information that she had worked on previously.
 - g. Shirt order
 - a. Karen Hatch will be placing the order
 - b. Committee recommended last year's logo if we could copy it, and keeping “rec” instead of “recreation” as that gets busy. Second choice was Vassalboro with a line through it. The redesigned shield logo (not an exact copy of the old logo) was the third choice.
 - h. Officials lined-up?
 - a. This happens after we have a game schedule

- i. Supply requests?
 - a. Item was not discussed
 - b.
- j. Setting up Gazebo
 - a. Karen Hatch will ask public works about setting it up
- k. Snack Shack volunteers/Commissioner
 - a. No one for the position yet, but also need to figure out the need for it.
 - b. Really only 3-4 mornings for soccer games, not a ton of money to be made.
- l. Trash cans- looking into getting commercial grade cans
 - a. Very expensive to replace
 - b. Need a plan for who takes care of the trash, rec commissioners tend to take care of it, but the men's softball league have not. Public works is taking care of the bins by the snack shack once a week, but the ones on the far side of the field are overflowing.
- m. Other?
 - a. Melissa Olson will be stepping down as soccer commissioner once registrations are complete.
 - b. Softball Fence from the men's league needs to come down. Karen Hatch said she will have it down by Friday.
 - c. Coaches meeting Friday. Coaches will need binders, med kits (which need to be restocked), keys (to the coach's closet and gate), & rosters.
 - d. We need to ensure kids don't hang from the soccer nets as they will bend.
- 4. Update on Baseball season
 - a. Fall plans for baseball field
 - a. Three clinics this summer with the EA varsity coach and some of the players. 12-15 kids participated, some from other towns occasionally.
 - b. Potential for a fall clinic, but TBD.
 - c. Hope for some winter clinics as well..
 - d. Committed to Fairfield PAL for next season.
- 5. September 15, 2023 Corrections Crew workday.
 - 1. Finishing painting dug-outs
 - 2. Painting poles
 - 3. The Work Crew will come once a month to work on fields
 - a. Suggestion to have them weed infields every month.
 - 4. Roofs also need to be replaced on dugouts, and fences need to be pounded down. There may be a hornets nest in the Babe Ruth dugout (Not an issue for Corrections)
- 6. Softball Field- SportField scheduled to work on it this fall
 - a. Some work has been done, but SportField will redo this field entirely using ARPA funds.
 - b. Wacecken and Pulver Fields were maintained well enough this year they do not need a complete rehab.

- c. Babe Ruth field was rehabbed before the season, but was mostly used by the school and was less of a priority for the committee to maintain. It will need substantial work again in the spring.
7. Sept. 16, 2023 , Soccer field being used for a benefit for a family in town. They will be setting up at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 6 p.m. Doing a Corn-hole tournament.
8. By-laws draft and position descriptions will be done by September meeting. Due to the scope of the Community Program Director's job description and it falls under the town's personnel policy and not the committee bylaws, Aaron Miller, town manager, will be working on revising the Rec Committee by-laws. The rec committee will have an opportunity to review the bylaws and make recommendations.
9. Online registration update
 - a. Hopefully tied to new town website, but was not ready in time for soccer season. More details to come.
10. Any other concerns, information to share?
 - a. Discussion over the safety of the playground. Some expressed concerns over the spinning thing. Karen Hatch was going to look into what could replace it (rather than just remove it). A member of the public did complain over the height of the wood chips when they were refreshed making it hard to swing. It may need to be clarified that the playground is for children only. We will look into updating the playground for next year, including moving it further away from the road for safety reasons. The fence around the parking lot also needs attention, as the wire is broken in places and stretched out in others.
 - b. Sponsorships for teams & signs have previously not been tied to annual budgets. Karen Hatch mentioned a need to tie revenue from registrations and sponsorships to annual expenses. There was discussion about having a need to carry some balance over year to year to help pay for larger expenses that aren't annual. The committee wants to make sure we are transparent to sponsors about how we are spending their money, while keeping the cost as low to the children and families as possible.
 - c. Potential for trunk or treat in October? Don't want to conflict with PTO, so Karen Hatch will reach out.
11. Upcoming Recreation Programs
 - a. Senior Trip to Fryeburg Fair, October 3, 2023
 - b. Cooking Matters for Families, Oct. 5 – Nov. 9 at the Grange
 - c. Halloween Activities- working with Mill
 - d. Trail walks
 - e. Setting up Snow Shoe Dates in Winter
 - a. There are groups that can bring snowshoes and skis for the public to use.
12. Next meeting date, September 11, 2023. 6pm Vassalboro Library.
13. Adjourn