

**Town of Sunapee: Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes for December 13,, 2022**

- **In Attendance: Steve Bourque, Charleen Osborne, Jesse Socci, Dan Whitmoyer**
 - **Guests:** Sophie Bourque (By Zoom) (Interested in possible Student Representative Position).
- **Meeting called to order by Charleen at 7:03 PM**
- **There were 4 motions made and all were unanimously approved. No policy updates took place. All motions are highlighted below.**
- **Meeting Minutes for November 2022 were unanimously approved**

Topic 1: Youth Basketball Update

- Participation numbers have grown since last meeting.
 - K has 15
 - 1st and 2nd grade has 22
 - 3 / 4 girls have 12
 - 3 / 4 boys have 26
 - 5 / 6 girls have 7
 - 5 / 6 boys have 12
- We are participating in the Sugar River League this winter and all first practices / contests have gone well with few issues
- There was one small hiccup with scores being “run up” in a few games, both by Sunapee teams and against Sunapee teams. Coaches have been given friendly reminders that this is just a Recreation league, and the SR League itself does have clear rules on how the game is to be played when you are up by certain margins of points.

Topic 2: Adult Volleyball and Basketball

- VB is Friday nights from 7-9. Steve has not been received reply from the group to ask how this is going, so he is planning on stopping by the gym one night while it is going on just to make sure that all is going well with this program.
- Basketball is for Saturday nights from 5-7 for kids, adult follows.
- Both of these items need to get onto our calendar.

Topic 3: Turkey Trot Recap

- Everything went off smoothly, there were no issues to report
- We are still waiting for one invoice to come in, but as it currently stands the TT turned a profit of \$14,079.84.
- \$6,750.00 came from donations, the remainder of the profits came from the fundraiser.
- Steve stated that the merchandise table did very well, we got rid of a lot of old shirts / merchandise that we had stored from previous years.
- There was a question posed as to if we should allocate 2K of the funds donated towards the Recreation Scholarship Fund.

- After a brief discussion, Dan made a motion to move 2K from the TT profits to the Recreation Scholarship Fund. Jesse Seconded, unanimously approved.

Topic 4: Warrant Articles

- Charleen stated that the Budget Advisory Committee does not approve of us putting the Veterans Field article up, stating that it is not currently financially responsible.
- Charleen went on to add that Recreation has been asked to wait on this project for years, and that she feels as if our project has been in a holding pattern for long enough. She does not feel like it is smart for us to put it back on by petition so she has come up with a solution. She would like to put the article on but change the article to make it have ZERO financial impact, so essentially just asking the town if they would be on board with the Recreation Committee exploring other options for funding this project. This way we know for sure if we should move forward or not with the project.
- The committee agrees and thinks that this is a good idea. The only big thing is just making sure that it is worded so that the taxpayers understand that there is a possible grant to pay for up to ½ of this project, and also making sure that taxpayers know that this is an opinion only article, there is no financial impact to this like there was in the past.
- Charleen also gave a history of voting in the Town of Sunapee for the Recreation Department. Since 2004, there have been only 3 warrant articles for Recreation involving various items, totaling 66K. NONE of these have been in the last 10 years. Recreation has historically not asked the taxpayers for much, and Charleen stated that she feels like the taxpayers really want us to run all these programs and do all these things, but doesn't want to support the department financially.
- Charleen stated that there were also many negative comments floating around social media regarding us raising our program prices. She has replied to many telling them that this is the best that we can do and we are only doing this to help fund the programs, not to make money. The way it stands, there is simply no way that we can run the programs as they will not even make enough to cover our costs. She stated that this goes back to the Warrant Articles, and how Recreation has not passed any vote in favor of Recreation in a long time, so if there is no support then we can only do so much to control prices. There was some discussion about this during various parts of the meeting, and the committee is committed to keeping the program prices as low as possible. Some points on this are below.
 - Fees were only raised to simply cover the cost of the programs so that they can still be run without a loss. The cost of everything has gone up, including the cost of umpires / officials, league fees, uniforms, equipment, and more. This has not aided in us being able to keep costs low.
 - Baseball / Softball is our most expensive season, and even though prices were raised we still fell short of covering costs for the programs. Our fees are still well below what other towns are charging.
 - We are looking into sponsorships for the coming seasons to help defer the costs of items such as uniforms. This will help to keep programing fees low.

- The Recreation Committee has established a scholarship fund for families that cannot afford to have their children participate with rising fees.
- After discussion, Jesse made a motion for Charleen to amend the Veterans Field article, making it an opinion only question (no financial impact), to see if the town would like Recreation to explore grant options for funding the project. The LWCF grant could potentially cover ½ the project. Dan seconded, unanimously passed.
- There was also a topic brought up that we may have some funds from the field project that have not been allocated yet. She asked if these were ready by the time the vote was due that we should move them to the trust fund that was created for the fields. All agreed. Dan made a motion to move said funds, Jesse seconded, unanimously passed.

Topic 5: Membership, Various Updates and Discussion

- Matt Frye from UNH gave us a consulting price of \$4,800. He stated that we can pick and choose what we want to do in order to lower that price further if needed.
- The skating rink is almost ready to lay out the liner and flood, should be able to get that accomplished as long as the temperatures stay low enough consistently.
- Steve stated that he has asked the BOS to move 26K from the Recreation Revolving fund to cover the deficit from programming. He stated that a full year's report will be ready by our February meeting. He feels that this is only going to improve more in the coming years as this was his first year with getting everything organized.
- There was brief discussion surrounding a Circus Camp. It is very expensive. The idea sounds great, however we cannot offer the proper space. Jesse suggested trying to tie it in with Summer Camp. Steve said that's a possibility that they have talked about. Charleen asked if it could be a part of the 4th of July festivities, Steve said that this is a possibility as well. For the time being it remains too costly and we do not have the facility space, we will keep it on our radar for now as a possibility.
- Steve brought up the idea of having Students on the committee. Everyone thinks that this is a great idea that will help in many ways, including getting students involved in their community, helping them to see if this is something that they want to have various careers in, helping the committee with ideas for youth programming, help to bring volunteer numbers up as they will ask all their friends to help, and more. The committee is on board with doing this, we just need to iron out some logistics. For example, we believe that they need to be called "Student Representatives" and can attend meetings and participate in meetings, but cannot vote (this is due to age requirement for town committees).
- Additionally, there are 1 – 2 year and 1 – 1 year open seats on the committee and we would really like to get those filled soon. There is also a 1 – 1 year due for renewal in April. After discussion, Dan made a motion to put something in the Shopper, seconded by Jesse, passed unanimously.

Meeting Ended: 9:18 PM Motion made by Dan, Seconded by Jesse

Next Meeting: January 10th, 2023 at 7PM