

**Town of Sunapee: Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2023**

- **In Attendance:** Steve Bourque, Charleen Osborne, Jesse Socci (5:40)
- **Meeting called to order by Charleen at 5:30 PM (meeting held early due to Town Deliberative Session).**
- **No votes took place during this meeting**
- **Meeting Minutes for January 2023 tabled – not enough committee members to vote**
- **Attached File(s): None**

Topic 1: Youth Sports Updates, Officials and Sportsmanlike Behavior

- Steve mentioned that he has a donation lined up for new basketballs so he was hoping to give away the old ones to basketball participants.
- Baseball / Softball / Tee-ball sign-ups are still live and are flowing in.
- Steve read aloud a draft of behavior expectations at our youth sporting events.
- Essentially, this is a Zero-Tolerance Policy. Should there be an issue, both head coaches will be called to the center of the field / court. The official will give each coach a chance to identify and go speak with the issue fan(s). If the behavior continues, the team that they're with will take the forfeit loss, and the game / match will be over at that point in time.
- This is well received by the committee members present, and in Steve's words, we are empowering our officials to take action rather than not really knowing what to do or how to handle the situation.
- Steve will send a copy to the group for review prior to the next meeting.

Topic 2: Programming Fees, Sponsorships and Scholarships

- The committee discussed the process to enact a policy for approval or denial of scholarship requests.
- The present committee members (as well as others from past meetings), all feel that this is something that should be private and not out in the open for all to discuss.
- Steve brought up that we possibly have a three person sub-committee that would include an employee of the town and one member of the Sunapee Recreation Committee.
- It was noted that Newport Recreation webpage has a full application process on their webpage – we could look to that for reference.
- There has continued to be comments regarding programming fees being too high. We are simply bringing our prices up to date as the large majority of our programs in the past have been run taking a loss, we are simply trying to break even for our programming and have taken steps (such as sponsorship and scholarship), to aid in

keeping our costs as low as possible. It should be noted that we still hold some of the lowest prices in the area for Recreational Activities.

- Sponsorships were briefly discussed as well and how those are going to be handled. Steve feels that it is probably best to go about our seasons, and then use the sponsorship money to pay the invoices at seasons end.
- It was discussed about what would happen if there was a surplus in sponsorship dollars. It is not fair to start adjusting prices mid-sign ups, so it has been proposed that we float those funds, as some activities may end up spending more than budgeted, and some less. For example, if we have a very snowy basketball season, we may save a lot of money on officials and have a small surplus, however, come spring time if we need extra bags of speedy-dry, or new catchers equipment, that surplus float can help to cover.
- In addition – it is also not wise to count on sponsorships when determining program costs. While we may have pledges for a certain number – it doesn't always mean that those will be followed through on. Although not common, it has happened.
- It was also noted that there are separate budget lines drawn out for specific donations – as the committee cannot allocate those funds or float those funds to any other area. For example, if there is a specific donation for new basketballs, we cannot use those funds for anything but said items.
- Also discussed was how to advertise for scholarships to let people know that assistance is available if needed. The committee thinks that this is important but is not really sure how this should be done just yet.

Topic 3: Volleyball, Drop-In / Open Gym Sports, Policy Updates

- Steve made mention that he has had some contact with the Volleyball group, but still feels that it may be an “exclusive” group as there has been some gym switching and other activity going on.
- Sunapee Recreation Committee has made it clear in past meetings that if we are sponsoring an open gym, that there is not to be anyone excluded from that activity, all are welcome.
- Charleen made a comment that we could possibly have all drop-in coordinators sign a form every year that documents all of the expectations of Sunapee Recreation for that event.
- It was asked if they should also be paid with a stipend, however it was determined that was only enacted for Boot Camp because the instructor needed a certification.
- Steve made mention that he was going to deny access to the wrong gym for Drop-In Volleyball to help make sure that they are in the proper location for the activity.
- If issues continue we will have further discussion at next meeting.

Topic 4: Summer Camp, Other Notes

- Steve stated that sign-ups are live, and that he has been fielding regular emails / questions regarding camp.
- There was one question regarding why the price has increased so much. This is again due to the fact that prices in the past were not even breaking even for us – so the price points needed to be raised in order to cover costs.

- There was a question as to if food was going to be included this summer. Steve stated that he does not have an issue getting the kids more snacks this summer and possibly 1 meal per week.
- Steve stated that there is still some logistics being worked out – such as staffing hours and Counselor in Training (CIT) weeks allowed, policy and other details.
- Steve stated that investors who purchased the Newport Golf Club had been in touch about a golf camp. Steve and the committee members present were not really sure how this would fit in with our programming, but the topic can certainly be discussed at a later date once more information is gathered and more committee members are present.
- Steve stated that he has a small adjustment for the spreadsheet (Sugar River Account) from last meeting, (these are the funds being moved to reconcile the accounts). Jesse will make sure it is updated in the January meeting minutes. Steve also mentioned that he would have a quarterly accounting update for the committee, hopefully all ready to go for March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Next meeting scheduled for March 14th, 2023 at 7PM.