

TOWN OF DURHAM
RECREATION COMMITTEE
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RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH 2007
MINUTES

The Recreation Committee met at the Town Hall on Wednesday, September 19, 2007. Co-Chairman Karen Kean called the meeting to order @7:15 p.m.

Members present: Karen Kean, Carol Herzig, Kate McLaughlin, Ann Figoras, Linda Handley, Sherry Hill, Cheryl Salva. New member Liz Cipollina was welcomed.

Members absent: Charlie Bray, Joan Bowe.

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Chairperson Karen Kean is resigning. She will continue to serve as alternate. Karen Kean nominated Kate McLaughlin as new Chairperson and it was seconded by Carol Herzig. Kate McLaughlin accepted the nomination. Voting commenced with unanimous approval. Discussion of the possibility of co-chairs in the future.

Kate McLaughlin asked for a copy of the Recreation Director's job description. Sherry Hill will obtain this from the First Selectman's office.

The 2007 Summer Program was discussed and reviewed. Deemed successful on all fronts with some concerns regarding organization of activities for next year's Playground Program at Allyn Brook Park. Various suggestions for improvements in the area of arts and crafts, more structured activities, and additional training and instituting motivational techniques for counselors – many good ideas. The budget for the summer program should also be examined in depth. Karen Kean asked that members prepare a list of what they would like to see included in next summer's programs and bring it to the table for more in-depth discussion at the next meeting. All agreed.

Karen Kean reported that the summer concerts went well but were not as well attended as was hoped. It was noted by Ann Figoras that lack of proper advertisement may be the issue as well as time commitments of individuals and families that contributed to the poor turnout. The possibility of perhaps increasing ad efforts, changing the day of the week bands are scheduled to appear, or reducing the concerts to just two per season was discussed. Karen Kean stated her desire to continue her role in arranging to book bands for this program and will report back at a later date with info on bands, prices, and availability. Sherry Hill announced that she would be looking into a Connecticut Commission on the Arts partnership matching grant to assist in funding the concerts. Liz Cipollina has had experience with the grant process and will assist her in the research.

Discussion of library usage for recreation programs was tabled until the next meeting.

Fall programs were also discussed. The idea of purchasing/renting a better quality Holiday suit for the Tree Lighting ceremony was raised by Carol Herzig. The Halloween Parade will follow the same structure as last year.

Karen Kean reported on her walk through Allyn Brook Park with the First Selectman and Director of Public works. Additional signs regarding safety issues, removal of the adult exercise equipment, and the replacement of some worn playground swings was noted and Karen followed up with a memo to both? Cheryl Salva noted the need for an additional crosswalk and continued signage for traffic on Pickett Lane particularly due to the increased activity during junior league football practices. Karen Kean also expressed concern for the continuing need for a sign stating safety rules to be posted at the tennis courts.

Interest in a skateboarding park in Durham was brought to the attention of the committee and was discussed briefly. Further discussion was tabled to a future meeting and Sherry Hill will continue research on this subject.

The possibility of the Summer Recreation Program utilizing Camp Farnum's facilities was mentioned, particularly their pool. Kate McLaughlin suggested a walk-through of the Camp Farnum grounds in the future and Sherry Hill will contact the director and get back to the committee on her findings.

A meeting schedule for the Parks and Recreation Committee was set for the balance of 2007 through August 2008 (see attached). All meetings will take place at Town Hall at 7:00 pm unless space is limited, at which time the meetings will be moved to the library.

Liz Cipollina was asked to assume the role of Secretary for the committee, which she accepted.

Finally, Karen Kean was heartily thanked for her many years of service to the Park and Recreation Committee and for agreeing to continue to serve as our alternate committee member.

Upcoming 2007 activities:

Halloween Parade at Brewster School – Saturday, Oct.27th, 10:00 am
Tree Lighting on the Green with Santa – Saturday, Dec.1, 3:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth S. Cipollina, Secretary