

Southbridge Recreation Advisory Committee

Location: Community Center, 153 Chestnut St

Date: Thursday, 16th August 2018

Time: 7:15 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Opened Meeting at 7:19 pm

2. Attendee Introductions

Present were Steven Roenfeldt, Pedro Aponte, Darlene Renaud, and Kaitlin Servant. Not introductions were necessary.

3. Events Updates

a. AutumnFest 2018

The date of AutumnFest is Sept 22nd. Event time 10-4 Steven asked for anyone interested in volunteering to help at the event to please let him know. Recreation will be providing some activities for the event, as well as set up and clean up. Pedro asked is the event planning committee is still accepting vendor applications. Steve said he would look into that question. Pedro committed to be at the event and will help with set-up and break down. Volunteers are needed anytime between 8 am and 5 pm.

b. Family Day

Family Fun Day by Southbridge Community Connections and the Salvation Army is Aug 25th from 10 am – 2 pm. Steven ask those present to help distribute flyers for the event. He also asked for volunteers. The Recreation Dept will be on hand to provide some activity stations and any volunteer help from 9 am – 3 pm is appreciated.

c. Movies on the Common

A movie on the common idea was discussed. The group was asked if this is an event that is feasible to put together by early September. The group responded yes. A date was set for Friday, Sept 7th with a rain date of Sept 14th. Time will be 7 pm. Darlene is going to reach out to Dexter-Russel about the use of their box truck as a screen. Kaitlin will ask the same question to United Lens. The funding for the program has been verbally committed by the Claire Birtz Trustees. Steve is going to test the projector from the cable station to see if it is adequate for a larger format. Kaitlin was going to ask around for

other options from people she knows regarding projection possibilities. Steve will contact a sound person about availability on those days to set up sound. The license will need to be ordered from Swank Motion pictures licensing. The deadline for tasks put forward to the group is Friday August 31st.

4. Program Updates

a. Flag Football League

Steve provided an update for Flag Football. The schedule is set with games starting on September 9th at Charlton St School. Steve noted that we are still waiting to hear of approval of the use of that field from the school department. The request for the field was submitted. Teams were filled from last year participation and word of mouth.

b. Summer Program at West St

Darlene provided a report from the Summer Program at West St as she was a staff member of the program. Averaged 40-45 kids each week. She reported that the kids were engaged. The guest speakers & outings were a good break for the kids and enjoyed by them. Each of the themed activities was done well. She reported that the staff was a good group and worked well together. Steven commented that parents have responded positively about the program. The final day of the program was Aug 16th.

c. Summer Concerts on the Common

There are 2 concerts left in the series.

Sunday Aug 19th 4EverFab (a Beatles Tribute Band) presented by Savers Bank.

Sunday Aug 26th Tony Soul Project presented by Catholic Charities of Southern Worcester.

The attendance to the series is averaging 140 -150 which is up from previous years.

It was mentioned that more food such as snacks or popcorn be available. Steven mentioned that the ice cream truck is at every performance for a portion of the time. Per a suggestion, Steve has begun selling bottled water and some snacks, and has been able to generate some money, about \$20 -\$30 each performance. The upcoming Savers Bank sponsored show will not have any because the bank provides free snacks and water. More permanent food vending is desired for next year. The question posed is how to convince the vendors to continue coming. Previous vendors have attended, but did not sell enough products to make it work returning. This will be an objective for next year's series.

d. Free Tennis Clinic

The tennis clinic provided by Mari Ruggari had 5 participants. The parents had very positive feedback, despite the 2 of the 5 days canceled due to rain. Mari was pleased with the program and hopes to continue offering it next year.

e. BMX Skills program

The second week of BMX clinic was the week of Aug 6th. This was a change from original date of Aug 20th. The date was moved because community feedback was we would have better participation at this week. For this clinic we had 10 kids participate all week with 2 additional kids participate only 2 days of the week. Parent feedback was very positive. The staff of Aaron Roso and Duane Williams received high praise. Duane's positive attitude and enthusiasm was noted on multiple occasions. We hope to continue this program into the future

f. Handball Clinics

The Nancy and William Ortiz of the New England Handballers Association hosted some handball nights at Henry St. First billed as an instructional clinic for youth, this change to open play and learn sessions through the summer. They had some regular attendees including former councilor Esteban Carrasco and his son, and current town councilor Rick Nash. Steve joked how Mr. Nash was very adamant about defeating the Recreation Direction, but with a smile on his face, Steve noted, he never did.

5. Facilities

a. BallFields & Parks

West St Fence project was completed by Morrison Fence. The infield still needs weed removal and then an order of new infield mix, and the installation of new bases.

The Wheelchair swing at Lower West St was repaired. New signage is needed to indicate that the feature is ADA only.

b. Other Park need suggestions

West St baseball fields need no dogs allowed signs, no smoking signs and please keep gate closed signs.

6. Open Forum to discuss Recreation issues or ideas

Darlene brought up the idea of a Halloween Dance party at the community center. This led to a discussion regarding the Horribles parade down Main St. It was suggested we reach out to the Police Department about reversing

the route and ending the parade on Marcy St and blocking off the street for safety of the 1000s of people that come to that section of neighborhood each year. Darlene will also contact the YMCA teen leaders if there is an interest in putting together a Halloween Party. Steve suggested if there was not a high interest perhaps the idea is tabled until next year.

Also discussed was Recreation coordinating a Town-Wide yard sale in the fall. Participants could reserve a space on the common or be listed on a town wide map for the event. Suggestion was made that something like \$10 would get a person placed on the map or a space on the common. While the idea was well received, it was suggested Recreation plan a spring date. At the next meeting a date will be discussed and planning will begin.

7. Schedule next meeting:

September 20, 2018 at 7:15 pm at the Community Center

8. Adjourn by 8:30 pm: Adjourned at 8:40 pm