

## **HVERHILL RECREATION COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2013

Commission Members **present:** Kurt Davis, Jo Lacaillade, Barb Dutile, Leslie Ramsay, Kim Waterhouse, Dave Joslin, Lynn Wheeler, Select board Rep.

Recreation Director: Sherri Sargent

Members **Excused:** Dianne Rappa

Members **Absent:** Dave Robinson

Members of the **Public:** Keisha Luce, Executive Director of Alumni Hall and Bob Fillion, present to listen only.

**Meeting was called to order** at approximately 6:02 pm by Kurt Davis.

Motion was made by Jo Lacaillade to approve the minutes of July 10, 2013, seconded by Lynn Wheeler and approved unanimously.

We first acknowledged Keisha Luce from the public so that she would not have to wait. She was at the meeting requesting to borrow the Recreation tent for the Festival of Earthly Delights sponsored by Alumni Hall and being held again at the North Haverhill Fairgrounds on September 14th. She had borrowed the tent in the past from the 4th of July committee and they told her they had sold the tent to the Town/Recreation Dept. for use with HARP. Barbara Dutile told her that she believed there was a policy in place dating back to late 90's/early 2000's when she was on the Select board, which prohibited the loaning of town of property. Others on the commission agreed and advised her that it wasn't anything against Alumni Hall or the event but that the policy was in place for a reason. The commission has followed this policy and not allowed town property to be loaned out in the past. The tax payers pay for the items and then when equipment is broken/ lost/

etc. there is no one to replace it. Keisha stated that it was going to be used by tax payers and felt that the town/recreation department should have more community spirit and reciprocity. The Rec. Committee advised her that she could still go before the Select board. Lynn Wheeler agreed that there should be a written policy even if there is not one at this time.

### **Old Business:**

Sherri reported on the HARP program, which is going very well this year and was well attended. The numbers are remaining consistent. The Math and Science has ended and the program still has several of the students attending. For the final day there will be a pot luck with parents being included. They will be playing games and also having ice cream. This will be Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. She extended an invitation to all. The HARP revenues have exceeded our budget. Sherri reported that she feels that the program has turned a corner. She stated that she felt that the early start and early hours did help the program this year. The consistency helped with car pooling and out of town youth. There were no issues with the additional fee to the out of town youth.

The pool is also going well but just recently the attendance has dropped a little due to the cooler weather. Sherri brought up discussion of an inappropriate - intoxicated 50 year old male individual at the pool last Sunday. He was belligerent when requested to leave. He resides on Connecticut Street. He does frequent the pool on hot days. Sherri plans to speak with the individual personally. She has also consulted with the Police Department about a possible "Trespass order". The commission has faith in Sherri to handle the situation and will certainly back her with whatever decision or process that needs to be followed.

Sherri reported on the Battle of the Bands. This event went very well and the participants were very well behaved. They were pleasant well mannered and friendly engaging kids. The music was definitely questionable and very LOUD " Punk Rock but that was the only complaint/opinion. It was a great show. The event was a success and

they would like to do it again. The crowd was not too large but they did bring in \$230.00 of which one half was donated to the Haverhill Recreation Commission. They had ice tea and water. They helped to clean up afterwards and thanked the commission for offering the venue. Sherri felt we should consider doing it again.

### **New Business:**

Sherri reported on the British Soccer Camp being hosted by our town starting August 19th - Monday through Friday 9 am to 4 pm. The age group is ages 8 to 18. Presently there were only 20 students signed up but she was hoping that the word would travel and more would be signing up. It is an expensive program but very well worth it. She stated that they would be looking for homes for the British coaches to stay - it's like an exchange type program. The kids are furnished a T-shirt, ball and evaluation. They do it all and the registration is all done on line. We are simply the Sponsor of the program.

The next Railroad Park concert will be held on Saturday - August 17th. The Anderson Lane Band will be playing. They are a local band and did participate in the Battle of the Bands. They do have a good following. They are Punk/Hard Rock. We will give it a try. We have featured everything else. Sherri is looking for help that evening.

Sherri brought up the discussion of a "Proposal for a Community Center in Haverhill" and provided the committee members with a copy of the proposal which was signed off at the end as "Anonymous". There was much discussion on the proposal but it really seemed that there were way too many functions being all thrown in, which in reality were actually conflicts. Such as animals exhibits and fish and commercial exhibits with tractors and kitchen equipment. There would be kids playing games and people trying to read in a library. There was mention of museums but right now we have museums, such as the Maple Syrup Building at the North Haverhill Fairgrounds and the Historical Society. The amount of money would be no guarantee and would no way even

begin to cover the ideas of this proposal. We also had discussion about the building not really being able to accommodate all of these ideas. There was mention of volunteers and right now they are few and far between. Our biggest problem is always money and volunteers. We as a commission are not in the position to administer this proposal. We inquired among our commission whether or not the town had been approached and that it would certainly need to go before the town and not just our commission. We would not have any authority to do such a thing on our own nor should we be acting as the liaison in this matter. Overall we felt it was over our heads and beyond our reach at this time. It would be great to have a community center but we all felt that at this time we had a good start and that our community had always been famous for having a history of being supportive of our recreation. We need to attract people but we need to get there in a way to not burden the taxpayers. We attract people to our community for certain culture that we do have here. Our chairman, Kurt inquired if there was anything else to say?? Hearing no more discussion ---

**Meeting adjourned** at approximately 7:20 p.m. Motion by Barb Dutile and seconded by Lynn Wheeler.

Minutes taken by Barb Dutile.