

**STRATHAM RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2009**

PRESENT

MEMBERS: Tracy-Lynn Abbott, Eileen Bischoff, Claire Ellis, Caren Gallagher, Tom Haslam, Jan Henderson, Stephanie Ilberg-Lamm, Kevin Peck, Alison Pike, Alternate Member Shelly Browne and Recreation Director Tara Barker

GUESTS: Robbie Grijalva, Rich Middleton, Jim Ryan

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

The June 1, 2009 meeting of the Stratham Recreation Commission opened at 7:20 p.m. Kevin Peck motioned to adjourn to a non-public session. Motion seconded by Eileen Bischoff.
APPROVED.

OPENING

After a short non-public session, the public session of the June 1, 2009 meeting of the Stratham Recreation Commission opened at 7:45 p.m.

MINUTES

Jan Henderson motioned to accept the May 2009 minutes. Motion seconded by Claire Ellis.
APPROVED.

SOFTBALL

- Robbie Grijalva presented an update on the Softball program.
- The number of participants has increased from 74 to 159 girls in the last three years. There are currently 11 teams, including three at the U12 level. Softball does not have A and B teams at that level, the more skilled players are evenly spread out among all three teams, and as a result the teams are not winning against the better teams from other towns. Some solutions to this problem were discussed, including formation of A and B teams with the A team players also playing on the B team. Softball feels they need to find a way to get the girls at a competitive level for middle school, one way may be to form a summer league team for the more competitive players.
- Late registrations continue to be an issue. Softball does not want to turn players away but the late registrations cause difficulties with team rosters.
- The new softball field at Stevens Park is approximately half done and hopefully will be playable in the spring of 2010. This will help the lack of field space. Softball is currently using four fields and with the upcoming loss of the fields at the Community College there will be only two fields available for 12 teams. Additional field space must be addressed, including the possibility of a second field at the Municipal Center.
- Softball has a new website. They can be found at www.strathamsoftball.org

BASEBALL

- Rich Middleton and Jim Ryan presented an update on Baseball.
- The Cal Ripken season will wrap up on June 20. The Babe Ruth season is just starting.
- Baseball would like to see online registration and more online communication. Unfortunately there is no money budgeted in this year's Recreation Budget for this. Jim Ryan has done some research on online registration programs and has passed the information on to Tara Barker and Alison Pike.
- Fall Baseball had two teams playing at the Community College. UNH may want to use the field this year as well. The Stratham Recreation Department cannot OK this use; UNH must go through the Community College for approval of field usage.
- There is an upcoming Fisher Cats fundraiser scheduled for June 21. After the Fisher Cats game, two Stratham Babe Ruth teams will take the field for a game. Tickets are available through the Baseball Board. Proceeds from this will go toward the new field at Stevens Park. The Baseball Board will let Tara Barker know about upcoming fundraisers so she can further publicize them through the newspaper and e-mail blast.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

- The second round of bricks will be installed sometime in the next few months.
- A sign will be installed thanking the sponsors and committee. A discussion was held whether individual members should be named on the sign or just the committee as a whole. Tara Barker will check into the cost of the sign and what other towns/organizations have done in similar situations and advise us further.

REVOLVING ACCOUNT

The Revolving Account was looked at and discussed. Unreserved funds can be used for Recreation Department purposes. Reserved funds are for specific programs or sports boards. Alison Pike motioned to accept the Revolving Account. Motion seconded by Eileen Bischoff. APPROVED.

PENDING BUSINESS

- Registrations for the Summer Camp are not doing as well as expected, sessions are only half full at this point. Based on current registrations only one new staff person will be needed. Some solutions to the low registrations were discussed, including going back to half day or accepting half day as well as full day registrations. Alison Pike motioned to open up the registration to half day as well as full day to fill available spots. Motion seconded by Caren Gallagher. APPROVED. Any parents who have registered their children for the full day session that would like to switch to half day will be accommodated.
- Preparation for the 5th Grade Party should be completed by the end of this week (6/6).
- A separate meeting will be held to vote on the Danielle Harmon nominations. Tara Barker will e-mail with date and time.
- The Stevens Park Committee has been reduced to five members. The baseball field will be staked out and the access road will be started when the ground is dry. There were 4000 cubic yards of fill donated; costs were incurred only for the trucking.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Stratham Fair apple crisp shack will be a joint venture this year between the Ladies Auxiliary and the fundraising group from Stratham Hill Park. They will need to use the Recreation Department shed, will arrange for moving the shed and will return it in the same condition. Caren Gallagher motioned to allow the use of the shed by these two groups. Motion seconded by Eileen Bischoff. APPROVED.
- There will be a new website for the town of Stratham. The Recreation Department will have its own page which can be updated regularly.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Stratham Recreation Commission will be July 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Eileen Bischoff motioned to adjourn the June meeting. Motion seconded by Alison Pike. APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.