

Woodstock Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 11, 2019

Present: Crystal Adams (Director), Otto Anderson, Sarah Bentley, Marie Chamberlin, Amy Monahan, Erika Cornelius Smith

Next meeting: March 11, 2019 @ 7:00P (Woodstock Town Hall, Meeting Room C)

Meeting called to order by Director Adams at 7:03PM.

Minutes from November 13, 2018 approved (5 – Yeas, 1 – abstention, M. Chamberlin).

1. Recreation Director Report

Director Adams provided an update on the status of current programs, upcoming programs, past events, and possible future programs to members of the Woodstock Recreation Commission (WRC).

Current Programs:

The Adult Co-ed Volleyball and Adult Co-ed Basketball will play from 8:30P-10:30P to accommodate the Recreation basketball schedule. There are currently 11 teams in (5-8th grade) WRC basketball, 54 male and 38 female participants. 113 participants are registered in the K-4 division. These numbers indicate that greater than 1 in 4 children in Woodstock are participating in WRC basketball.

The yoga program has a full class.

There is interest in a winter volleyball program open to middle and high school students. 26 participants are currently signed up. Similarly, WMS after-school volleyball was successful with 25 participants. Another spring session will be planned for 5-8th graders and smaller volleyballs may be needed.

Mrs. Costa and Ms. Ekholm have expressed an interest in offering a 6-8 week cooking class in the future. They are estimating the cost of ingredients and planning will continue for this offering.

Upcoming Programs:

Ski Club is full with a waiting list. February 26th and March 6th will be make-up dates.

An Italian program will be offered at WMS. A flyer was distributed Friday, February 8th. The class will run for six weeks and each unit will be based on a regional theme that introduces students to language, cultural, cooking, and geography of Italy.

Children's yoga will be offered at WES beginning February 27th. The program is full with a waiting list. It is open to 3rd and 4th graders.

Past Events:

The Director reported on interest and participation in fall yoga, fall Zumba, Qigong, the NYC bus trip, and the November babysitting class.

In the spring offering, Qigong may move to a monthly fee (est. \$10) to help cover the costs of the program.

Possible Programs:

The Director proposed for discussion new program offerings for youth and adults that include – after school Italian or Spanish language, culture, and cooking lessons, life skills courses, running clubs; future partnerships with neighboring communities to offer bus trips, and the development of walking trails near WMS. The Director and Commission will continue to develop these ideas for 2019, with the exception of the walking trails (due to noted drainage issues in the grounds surrounding WMS).

The Director is coordinating with the Pomfret Recreation Department on a shared trip to Boston to see the Red Sox (anticipated June 22nd).

Looking ahead to April, the Director discussed coordinating an Earth Day clean-up on Saturday in Woodstock with the Conservation Commission, local civic organization, and community volunteers. She will research any grants available from Last Green Valley to help defray the costs of supplies. The committee discussed advertising or promoting the event and possible legal language to include in materials. Participants will be encouraged to take photos of clean-up around town and utilize a hashtag (Twitter) or connect on Facebook to celebrate the community effort.

Squirt Soccer will be offered again in spring. Dates TBD.

A self-defense course will be offered in partnership with Woodstock Academy on March 28th.

An “Adulting 101” program is under development, including themes on personal finance, changing a tire, sewing, and basic life skills. Commissioner Smith offered to reach out to members of the Nichols College Accounting and Finance departments to see if they would be willing to participate in the financial literacy component.

A bicycle maintenance and care class was discussed, and the Director will continue to discuss partnerships with local bike shops who could volunteer time for instruction.

Director Adams provided an update on her conversations with representatives from WMS and Woodstock Academy to bring improvements to the tennis courts behind WMS.

WRC Officers:

The Commission welcomed new member Marie Chamberlin at the meeting.

2. Discussion and Citizen Comments

Commissioner Chamberlin suggested researching new programming for toddlers during week days. This might include options like an open play or tumble time or Itty Bitty Sports (similar to Thompson). The Director will look for opportunities and spaces where these programs could be offered.

Commissioner Bentley suggested researching new programming for seniors, or creating informational materials that generate awareness of current programming available. This included a discussion of cards games, movies, BINGO, crafting, quilting classes, wreath making, and partnerships between youth organizations and senior groups. The committee agreed that more could be done to provide information and the Director will inventory local programs to help promote awareness of offerings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02P.

Respectfully submitted by Erika Cornelius Smith, February 13, 2019.