

SOUTHBRIDGE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, 11th of January 2018

Attendance: Steve Roenfeldt, {Director of Recreation}, Pedro Aponte, Darlene Renaud

Meeting opened at 7:20 PM

Reviewed the minutes of the previous meetings. Steven Roenfeldt identified that the adjournment time recorded as 7:25 pm was incorrect. Minutes revised to reflect the correct time of 8:25 pm.

Events Updates:

- Food Truck Festival: No update. Further discussion will happen at the Southbridge Business Partnership meeting on January 24th at 5:30 pm at the Center of Hope

Programs Updates:

- Pedro Aponte and Steve discussed the ALL IN recreation/leadership afterschool program at West St School. In partnership with the School Dept, Our Bright Future, Inc, YMCA, You, Inc and New Hope, we are providing an afterschool program 5 days a week from 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm. Pedro reported that it is going well. We are still waiting for a response from QCC regarding volunteers, which we are in need. Last contact with QCC was on Dec 20th. Steven will send a follow-up email. Pedro will also contact them again. Pedro noted the possibility of getting a set of computers donated to the program. He will provide an update at the next meeting regarding the possibility. We try to adjust the checkout procedures bringing the kids to the library at 5 with each grade level sitting together and debriefing the day. It was suggested that more chairs be available in the All In program room.
- Winter Playground Group at Community Center will be happening. Kaitlin Servant volunteers to help organize the program. The program will was on the following dates, Nov 30th, Dec 13th, Dec 27th, and Dec 10th at 9:30 am – 12 pm at the Community Center. Attendance has fluctuated between 18 kids to 3 kids. The program will continue every other Weds until April 18th. We will continue to promote the program. It was suggested that we provide promotional materials to Southbridge Community Connections and the Kennedy Donnivan Center.
- Summer Concert on the Common: Steve requested that fundraising for the event begin now. The plan is to have 10 concerts from the end of June through August. Steve spoke about the range of music styles that he books for the series. Lots of bands have contacted Steve about playing the series. Darlene asked what price most bands charge. Steve stated bands range in price from \$400 to \$1500. Pedro mentioned that he has a friend that might be interested in playing the series with his band, Blue Cat Jazz. Steve explained how bands can send him info about their band, how much they charge for a 2 hour performance, and their contact info, and he will get them on his list of interested performers. It was suggested to contact Big Bunny, SBP, Hyde Tools and Central Pizza for fundraising. Also discussed was the possibility of Movies on the Common Series for September. Steve contacted Swank Motion Pictures about licensing costs. Depending on the film the cost is \$300 - \$435 per showing, with a multi license discount of 15%.

Any organization approached regarding the concert series will also be asked about the film series.

- Flag Football League Proposal
 - Field request from school department was approved, for April through July at Charlton St Recreation Area. A list of possible referees will be sent from the school athletic department.

Facilities:

- Other Park need suggestions
 - None at this time

Open Forum

- Suggestion of organizing a New Year's Eve Ball drop in Southbridge. Discussed what community partners could be asked to explore the possibility. Suggested were Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center, Maquis, the Polish Club. It was decided that each present would reach out to some of these organizations about their thoughts. It will be on the next Rec Advisory Committee meeting agenda.
- It was also noted the town can always benefit from more kids events.

The next meeting is scheduled for 15th of February, 7:15 pm at the Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut St.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm