

**Town of Wilmington
Recreation Commission
Minutes of October 2, 2014 Meeting**

Members Present: Charlie Biondo, Mike Burns, Laurie Robarge and Deborah Cipriani, Director

Member Absent: Sheila Burke & Mark Kennedy

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

The September 4, 2014 meeting minutes were read and unanimously accepted on a motion by Charlie Biondo and seconded by Mike Burns.

Director Cipriani's report:

Topsfield Fair tickets are on sale for \$9 each. These tickets are good any day and prevent patrons from having to stand in lengthy lines for admission. The fair offers a senior day where tickets are only \$8 each but it is very crowded that day.

The Pacific Coast Cruise went well. Experienced cruisers still prefer Celebrity and Royal Caribbean cruise lines. People loved the ports offered. The entertainment portion of the cruise seemed to be reduced.

The numbers on the Foxwoods trips are way down. Trips have recently been averaging about 32 paid participants per trip. Currently trips are offered once a month. Significantly fewer trips will be offered next year. Thought has also gone into perhaps offering casino trips in conjunction with a show.

WRBL registration closed today, October 2. The Recreation Department had reached out to the Boys and Girls Travel Basketball Directors in an attempt to coordinate dates to avoid parents from signing up their child and then needing to cancel or signing up late. Both of these situations have fees associated. A grace day will be offered for all on October 3 which will also help to accommodate the boys as the travel results will be posted October 2. No one from the girls travel program responded to the correspondence.

A wrap-up meeting with several Town Department Heads is scheduled for October 7 to discuss the summer at Silver Lake. Overall good feedback was received regarding new changes put in place including the gate being locked and the carry-in, carry-out of trash.

The last of the public workshops for the Yentile Farm project will be held from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Middle School on Thursday, October 9.

New Business:

The new Flag Football program for grades 6 – 8 had to be cancelled due to low registration. Students in grade 6 were given the option of playing in the grades 4 & 5 division. On the registration deadline there were 58 students signed up. When the program started there were 140 people registered. The majority of people paid late fees. This problem is being seen across the board for many programs and recreation departments. The leagues were comprised of grades 1 – 3 and 4 – 6.

The Annual Horribles Parade will be held on Sunday, October 26. Donations are generously being received and preparation is underway to accommodate up to 650 costumed children.

Debbie Cipriani attended the MRPA Regional Meeting held in Burlington. A lot of communities are struggling with late and reduced program registration. Sprinkler parks in other communities were also discussed. Debbie was told to be sure to use a “brushed” finish to avoid slipping and to think of “sloping” to the center of the park so mud puddles are not created.

The November edition of Recreation Matters will be released mid - late November.

Hotel reservations for Atlantic City had to be changed for the trip running on November 10 – 13 because of the pending closure of the Trump Taj Mahal. Both buses will now be staying at Bally’s which has agreed to keep the entire trip package the same.

Discussions:

Debbie has suggested that her staff visit the Billerica Recreation Dept. to view their on-line registration software. Debbie has already seen their system and feels it would fit the needs of many of the recreation offerings.

Disney on Ice Frozen tickets were a huge hit. The original 162 loge tickets ordered sold out quickly. Another 130 loge tickets were ordered followed by a third order of 46 tickets to accommodate the waitlist. In addition, two wheelchair seats and three companion seats were ordered separately. A total of 343 tickets were sold.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Charlie Biondo at 5:58 p.m. Motion was seconded by Laurie Robarge.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Laurie Robarge
Commissioner