

Millinocket Recreation Commission

Meeting 11/13/24

Present: Amanda, Tom, Rick, Andrew, Cody (Rec director)

Absent: Stephanie (excused), Warren (excused), Sue

Meeting called to order at 9:12am

Review of Minutes: Motion by Tom, 2nd by Andrew - Approved 4-0

Discuss programs:

Cody – Glad to announce we have over 170 for enrollment in the basketball and cheer programs. Pre-K through 1st grade significantly increased that count. This will be a great program for all communities in the region. Also noted that there will be harder deadlines going forward to maintain efficiency in the department. We are dealing with many late registrations weeks after deadlines have been announced. Eastern Maine Basketball League has started up as well, this was an additional program as well and practices will be held at Granite Street School.

Andrew – Inquired on having grade levels for EMBL and the rec director confirmed that it is 5th and 6th grade.

Cody – Reminded the commission that our next senior dinner is coming up and that it will be our holiday dinner, as we are adding in a few menu items to expand beyond just Christmas. We are excited to offer an expanded menu while continuing to keep a traditional Christmas dinner on the menu. This meal is sponsored by Brookfield, and we are thankful for their contribution.

New Photographer:

Cody – Mike Peterson is our new photographer and replaced Monty Rand residing in Bangor. Also noting that it was not the intention of the director to make quick changes on contracts, but after several attempts to get Monty on board, Mike was quick to respond on the request for a new photographer. Mike noted that he is willing and able to collaborate with other photographers in the region if needed, such as She of the Flowers Photography.

Andrew – Agreed the switch to Mike was the right choice for the region.

Dugouts:

Cody – We were still unable to get in touch with Adam Cyr and will put the project out to bid.

****Since the meeting, the director has met with Adam and was assured he will still do the project – and will be given in writing, that the project will still move forward at the original quoted price this Spring.***

Cody – Noted that there are some code concerns regarding an extension cord running across the tennis court fence by the concession stand that is currently powered. The contractor has left a mess over there and a live extension cord for over a month.

Tom – Assured the director that he would check into that.

Swing set:

Cody – Let the commission know that the swing set was delivered and is at public works. We are going to look to the Spring since the weather is not in our favor for an install.

Courts:

Cody – We are going to close the courts this week and remove the wind screens for storage to prevent any winter weather damage to the screens or fences. The additional weight of freezing rain is a big concern and will need to be stored every winter.

Winter recreation:

Cody – By Thanksgiving week the department would like to get a post out for at least two ice rink attendants. Also noted that there is a big push to get the ski tow project completed but raises concerns on the timing of winter weather and that the construction of the project is not finished. The goal is to get it up and running, but we are cutting it close to having a safe project up and running. Noted there is a lot of volunteer work putting this together, though there is a lot of department time needed to get Emergency Action Plans, and a site plan put together.

Rick – Asks if there will be staff to manage that site/lift?

Cody – Notes that there will have to be staff – not volunteers – operating that lift, and that it is Maine State Law that they must be at least 18 years old. The operation of the lift will also be weather dependent. Notes again and praises all the volunteer work that has got the project this far. Also that the director has had to ask around for information on the project as materials and information have not been sent his way. Notes it's essential to get important plans and department equipment such as a snowmobile that we need to obtain to make it a safe environment, and to prevent any injuries or death given the liabilities.

Rick – It may be a good thing to push the start date to next year to make sure that these things are in place.

Cody – Notes that there we will also need to look at the plowing of that area to accommodate all abilities and make it safe for emergency response. Also notes that the director is not trying to be the bearer of bad news, but that we just need to do this right so we can then staff it appropriately and have an awesome, and safe spot for recreation.

Committee concerns:

Tom – Acknowledges we need to keep the kids safe, and asked if we still run background checks for our volunteers? And requirements?

Cody – Confirmed we do that for every season, and including Millinocket Little Pro for example. We have been and just recently sent a request to the Maine State Police. They report back to us via mail. Any volunteer that has direct contact and responsibility for said child has a background check run on them.

Cody – Appeals to the commission if Dec 18th at 9:00am works - the commission agreed, and the next meeting is set for December 18th at 9am via Zoom.

Next meeting: December 18th 9:00am

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am: Motion by Andrew, 2nd Rick - Approved 4-0