

Millinocket Recreation Commission

Meeting 12/18/24

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

Absent: Tom, Stephanie, Warren

Meeting called to order at 9:00am

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

Discuss programs:

Cody –

Youth Basketball/Cheer: Youth basketball and cheer is busy and a long season and will see this recurring on the agenda, and all programs continue except for Pre-K through 1st which wrapped up this past Sunday. Great to see them run a game and practice fundamentals with smaller hoops. This will benefit the program starting off next year, as with Millinocket Little Pro. Mentions we try to prevent stacked teams and try to keep it balanced. All Stars travel team will be starting very soon with coaches picking teams over break. We are still working on the schedule and will be trying to get 10 to 12 games. Millinocket Little Pro All Stars and our All Stars start at different times in the season, us earlier than Millinocket. We are going to hold another make up session for basketball/cheer pictures because of the storm on our first session. We'll add in an All Star picture session at the end of that season. Will be meeting with coach Amber to order cheer uniforms. The basketball and cheer programs are at capacity but enjoyable and around 200 enrollments for all our programs currently.

Holiday activities: We had the wreath lightings at regional schools, and Hannaford stepped in with donations during those lightings. The director is used to asking for donations and will work those into our programs as we can. We will be participating in the Millinocket Festival of Lights parade, and plan on having both East Millinocket and Millinocket's vehicle in the parade. Another upcoming event will be the Christmas Tree pass out with the Community Initiative Director coming up soon. Santa's mailbox is up at the municipal building in East and open to the region. We missed Santa Calling this year but plan on bringing it back next year. Will try and get a donation or toy/hat for any child we receive a return address. Sue asked for clarification on the lights parade, and it will be 4pm to 6pm in Millinocket from Stearns to downtown, and the Santa mailbox is in East Millinocket.

Senior dinner – Jan 13th: Our next dinner for January 13th at noon, and our recent December meal this past Monday was more numbers than we expected – 109 meals served totals. We unfortunately lost our chef/volunteer Frank Clukey but were able to pull off the dinner and will continue them in his honor.

Rec Complex Improvements: There are a few lights that need to be replaced in the ice rink, and we planned on getting them replaced when we could get a hold of the bucket truck, but we had a winter storm that put that on hold. We switched to getting the ice rink ready. We may need the fixtures of the lights repaired, and the timing infrastructure because the lights for the ice rink are tied into the basketball court lights. Kids have been using the basketball court and end up turning on the ice rink lights which are expensive to run when not needed. Plan is to reroute the timer and add an additional one at the basketball court. The tennis courts should also have a timer system that is accessible without having the public opening the panel box. It's better to have that closed and only employees or electricians available to access and implement a timer that's safer for public use. The complex is open until 10pm, and we can change things to make it more suitable for the public, but also save us money.

Rick mentions that we should look at grants to redo the entire electrical system, so we can change everything and make it LED.

Winter recreation: Have been coordinating with the owners, electrician, and town staff on the ongoing tow pro ski lift project. The company was under the impression everything was ready to go and install marathon weekend, but there were unfinished tasks and public works was needed for marathon prep. The project has been volunteer driven, and a good project but there has been lack of coordination.

We are getting things back on track and are aiming for the week of January 13th to give time for Rick (electrician) to get remaining tasks accomplished, the company scheduling, and site planning such as EAPs that will give the director time to work on. Evan (maintenance) and the director have been working on site to get the first two runs open, with signage, and temporary fencing with supplies on hand with a limited budget for this season on this project. The ski lift would still need to be staffed – for the ice rink we did have four applications received and am working with Lori and Peter (HR and manager) on scheduling interviews. Two are in-house applicants and are available on Thursday for interviews and look promising. Contact the director with any questions. We may be able to get someone over there if one of the hires is 18 and could have a soft opening in February if so. Even with concerns, we are moving forward on the project and trying to get things in line.

Rick asked if Evan would be moving back to public works in the past. The director informed Evan is a full-time employee for the rec and is our only full-time staff currently. The director splits his time between East Millinocket and Millinocket. In the past the maintenance position has been split between Recreation and Public Works but is now back to having a full time maintenance for Millinocket Rec, which is helpful for the director because he is also Maintenance for East Millinocket facilities which takes time as well. With that, the director has contingency plans with Millinocket maintenance director to cover tasks in the event of illness or time off.

Committee concerns: No committee concerns.

Next meeting: January 15th 9:00am

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