

Millinocket Recreation Commission

Meeting 1/15/24

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

Absent: Sue

Meeting called to order at 9:00am

***Election of New Chair: Tom Malcolm** Motion by Rick, 2nd by Andrew - Approved 4-0-1

*Note that Warren Steward's rec commission position has expired. He is no longer interested in serving on the board, and Diana (town clerk) will post for that seat, and the alternate seat.

Review of Minutes: Motion by Andrew, 2nd by Amanda - Approved 5-0

Discuss programs:

Cody - Youth Basketball and Cheer will be recurring as the season is still going on.

*Sue in at 9:07

The regular basketball season is ending, with All Stars starting up, and North Stars cheering. Cheer will extend with competitions as the basketball season ends. We will be recognizing basketball, cheer, and Eastern Maine Basketball League at the high schools, and would like to get EMBL at both schools since it's regional. Unaware if that happened in the past but will check in on that. That's it for basketball and cheer, and reviewed all stars tourney at Stearns High School and Schenck High School. Hoping for 6 boys and 6 girls teams, it's been hard as we've been trying to get a schedule but the EMBL season is long and through January. More towns have joined in on the program, which has made joining our regular season for all stars difficult. We are going to look at scheduling next year to try to see how we might be able to restructure the season while still keeping the tournaments.

Andrew - asked on grade levels for all stars? Cody mentioned that we just do a 5th/6th program unlike little pro that also does 3rd/4th. If there was more staff support we could get involved in more programming. We're adding in extra things as we can, like extra cheer competition registration, senior socials, but can only do so much even with volunteers. We will evaluate the schedule for next year though if we can add in more like a 3rd/4th component like little pro.

Cody - Notes that scheduling has been difficult at times but we've opened up lines of communications with the schools to get more gym time where needed like EMBL practices at Granite, and extra cheer practices at Stearns so there is more regional scheduling. Stephanie had recommended a master schedule, and that would be great to have - each school had their own process on scheduling and some I don't have access to the schedule, but do have good working relationships with the leads at the schools if we need to check in on availability. It does make it hard when you can't see it all in one space. It's a lot of clerical work checking in on each space for one person with all other programming going on.

Cody - Holiday activities recap: we hosted a Santa's mailbox and received a letter with a return address. We were able to drop off a hat/mittens/toy to a local child. We did miss out on doing the Santa Calling program this year, but will look to bring that back for next year. We did Christmas Tree pass out with Community Initiatives Director Amber Wheaton and Our Katahdin, as well as put two units in the Festival of Lights parade. We had Santa's Elves help decorate our trucks and it was a fun event to participate in! We weren't able to participate in the East Millinocket one, but would try for next year.

Tom - mentioned that the East Festival of Lights is specific to the Fire Department - they don't put out invitations per say but may let the rec join in.

Cody - Our last senior dinner had around 70 and 80, and Rick mentioned there were only 6 to 10 empty seats. During the holiday meal there were 109 so we've trended back to our regular attendance. We've been distributing Local Senior Resources from the Library, and from Sue Bouchard's Senior Check in Maine. Our senior socials are ongoing and happening in the rec hall now. The Millinocket Memorial Library will also be adding a similar program that could include some discussion based activities. This will give another opportunity in the region for a senior space.

Winter Recreation:

Cody - The ice rink opens today and have been working really hard to get ice down with the unseasonable weather. The recent cold snap has helped us to get some layers down between snow flurries. Explained how we have to do it at specific times to get good ice, but our staff are ready to go. Brady and Anthony are seasonal workers for the rec already and are joining in for the winter season. They are local high school students and are great workers and may continue to have them for a few years. The Tow Rope company will be up tomorrow, and Rick W. has completed electricity work needed. After install we will move into final site prep, and get materials together. With the current lack of snow we don't anticipate opening it this year. We also need to get it staffed and our extra winter hires are unfortunately not 18. We are not going to put out false hope that it will open, but we will have time to get other pieces finished, site prep, and inspected so it's fun and safe for everyone in the future. Winterfest info should be coming out soon as we get closer to finishing planning, and working with designlab for a poster. Have also connected with Robin Stevens that will be in charge of the Snowdown over at the rec complex - they requested a site map to help plan, and where the skate mats are.

Tom - mentioned that Our Katahdin had mats, and we used to have some to help skaters get from the rink to the hut. Also to help prevent damage to the skates from them walking on the tar. Cody mentioned that we will check on them - if we have them we will use them.

Cody - we are doing as much winter recreation as we can. There are delayed administrative tasks to get things ready for this year that's taken up time, but the site will be better prepared. For example a backboard, CPR mask/AED, incident/accident reports, DOL workplace standards posted. We are ready to go.

Committee Concerns:

Andrew - mentions that there should also be some info for Adult Protective Services 800 number on the pamphlet for seniors. Those that may be in home care services and may be taken advantage of for example. Cody mentioned the Library does the list but could share it with John. Andrew mentions its a very worthwhile program for those that need it. Adult Protective Services - (800) 432-7338

Tom - Asked if East Millinocket replaced the maintenance man or if Cody was doing it all? Cody mentions we have 5hrs a week of custodial help, but does lean in as well as other dept heads if maintenance tasks need completing based on their expertise. On skate buddies, and benches, what we have plans for them. Cody mentioned they are stored in the hut, and Tom would get out the wooden benches. For the snowdown if we would be able to accommodate where stick and puck use at the rink is on the schedule. Cody confirmed the dept would accommodate for the snowdown and we would advertise extended times and the different maintenance schedule for the week.

Cody - asked if Amanda was ok with us meeting in her absence next month - confirmed ok.

Next meeting: February 12th 9:00am

Meeting adjourned at 9:28am: Motion by Tom, 2nd Andrew - Approved 6-0