

Westford Recreation Committee Meeting

November 7, 2023

Meeting called to order 7:09 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) by George Elliott

APPROVED minutes

Present

Members: Amanda Gifford, Andrew Katz, Ben McElvany, George Elliott, Lori Miller, Maria Olson

Guests: Jay Morgan, Nicole Sener, Cally Ruess, Leafye Pante and the Girl Scouts

Members Absent: Elizabeth Ploof

Agenda

Review [October Minutes](#)

Changes to Agenda

Schedule Next Meeting: December 5, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Finances - no budget requests for FY 2025

- Greg added a budget code for equipment, which is the -\$4500 for soccer goals.
- Summer events - \$850.00 is for the archery. We lost \$240 on it, but that doesn't account for the rest of the money. It seems there is a coding problem.
 - Email MJ for the budget code to find out what went where.
 - There is a lot getting lost in translation between people paying rec, the Westford town office, and the Westford Rec accounts.
 - We're negative \$400 for yoga and we shouldn't be losing ANY money on that.
- If there's anything Westford Rec wants in the 2025 budget, the meeting is 11/9.

Discussion:

- Gender Equity in WRD programs: We will address this as it comes up.
- VT Parks and Rec [Survey](#): Amanda will fill it out and solicit advice as needed.
- Review of Recent Programs & Events - limit to sharing changes to be made or problems to be addressed:
 - Bike Park Grand Opening - was good – problems? another in the spring?:
 - The grand opening was great. Table that discussion about having another event until next month.
 - Halloween events - pumpkin painting, Halloween Walk, Haunted Forest - any changes for next year?
 - George has thoughts on the haunted forest. George motions that Westford Rec support the Westford School Haunted forest walk under its umbrella as long as it's no cost to Rec. Motion seconded and carried Unanimous.
 - P/U Basketball - any problems?

- o [Futsal](#) - Age limit? Preferably older than high school, although we have used high school students (family members) as subs. Gender limit? Our women's futsal group would like to remain just women.
- Upcoming Programs & Events: DOOR CODE to the SCHOOL has changed - hide the keypad when you code into the school.
 - o Youth Basketball - Mark W, Scott R, Andrew D willing to coach, one family expressed interest in league play, another person suggested 3-4 bball on the suggestion form... Jay Morgan (will Zoom in) has reached out to EJRP for league play, Jeff Manley from Milton has reached out WRD to schedule a couple games.
 - Possibility to register Westford kids to play in the EJRP league but keep the Westford kids together as a team.
 - Jay would coach the 3/4 boys. Potential to have some home practice at school? The team would likely be co-ed.
 - Westford Rec has the gym reserved Saturday morning and every evening 7-9.
 - Upon further discussion, Rec feels it would be beneficial for Westford kids to have a local option that isn't as expensive and doesn't necessarily involve games.
 - Motion made to have a 1/2 program and a 3/4 program, co-ed, \$25.00 for the session, somewhere between 5-8 sessions. Time and coaches TBD. Motion seconded and carried Unanimous.
 - o Santa Letters - fix the mailbox, anything else? Amanda will check with previous volunteers to see who will help with letter writing. We will probably need more stamps and stationery.
 - o Community Holiday Tree - Leafye and GS troop 51841
 - hoping rec department can help with the tree, hoping to increase community involvement by having rec department sponsor it
 - don't have a tree donation this year, don't have resources to get tree and put it in town, have donation of christmas lights
 - Potential Tree lighting event activities
 - George suggests including an ornament creation project for kids
 - Needs: advertising, transportation of the tree—rec can help with these
 - girl scouts will reach out to tree farms to identify a donor
 - Date: TBD, potential dates Dec. 2nd or following weekend
 - o Turkey Trot - 155 registered, 15 volunteers (need more), just shy of 90 donations for the raffle valued 1300\$ so far.
 - o Rink - no-one responded to [Rink Master](#) Request
 - o ?? [Nordic ski rental](#) program??: It would be a good program to run, but it requires people to hand out and pick up the equipment. We will table for next meeting since there is not likely to be enough snow to x-country ski before then.
- Community Suggestions:
 - o Babysitting Course: [safesitters](#) course for anyone in the public who wanted to take the babysitting course:
 - o girl scouts have 3 girls who would want to participate
 - o Amanda will review costs and make a proposal
- Misc:
 - o Communication - Andrew's cell, Amanda's cell, e-mailing vs. texting. Any decisions and discussion need to go through email because they need a paper trail. Amanda can take texts in emergencies, but she would prefer not to be on text threads because she isn't able to respond to multiple texts during the day.
 - o [Town Report](#) - publish it

- o Pack the Gut: Yes, please advertise it.
- o [Milton Family Center](#) - Nicole Sener, Executive Director via Zoom 8pm
 - wants to hear more about what is happening in westford rec, what are community needs, and to share more about what is happening in Milton
 - 1 of 15 parent child centers in vermont, mandated to provide core services, focus on kids 1-6 and older kids
 - 1:3 of parent child centers in Chittenden county
 - programs provided listed on website
 - catchment area is northern Chittenden county
 - suggested collaboration with interested parties in Milton to partner on Rink
 - willingness on MFCC's part to host programming in Westford
 - Nicole will share flyers for us to advertise
- o MVP Health Care grant proposal Here is the link to the campaign video:
<https://www.nationalfitnesscampaign.com/watch>.
 - Rec members will watch the video then get back to Amanda.

Respectfully submitted: Lori Miller