

MINUTES Takoma Park Recreation Committee

November 20, 2014 7pm by Vineda Myers

Attendees: Vineda Myers, Pat Rumbaugh, Carolyn Bobb, Julie Kurland, Lew McAllister, Priscilla Labovitz, Howard Kohn, Ray Scannell, Rachna Rakhye, Cindy Dyballa.

Approval of Minutes: October 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

Community Update

I. Play

A. Winter Play Day - Sunday 2/8/15, 1 - 4pm at TP Community Cntr - DJ & band, glee club, MC, balloon game, Girl Scouts (box play & face painting), connect 4, dress-up, yoga, dance. Need volunteers. Another 2 hr event will be held in March on Carolyn Bobb's street.

B. Splash & Play Pool Party - 1/3/2015, 2 - 4pm at PBES Pool - prize for best swim cap, water aerobics & play. Need volunteers who can swim.

C. Over next few years Pat R. wants to get bulletin boards up at all TP playgrounds - to advertise events, etc. Maybe a donation from Landis Construction?

II. MLK Day - Mon 1/19/15

A. Service Day - 10am - 1pm - clean litter and invasive plants around dog park area (city spending 60K on dog park, which will be constructed in spring 2015). Need to advertise that middle school & high school kids can get SSL hrs for helping.

B. Evening program - 5pm - 7:30pm at PBES multipurpose rm. Brian Kenner will be MC, key note speaker will be Brandon Johns (MANUP) - pushing Youth Initiative, a lot of looking forward instead of backward. Food, kids act, game (Why do you live in TP? Prize for best answer).

III. Takoma Park 125th anniversary of incorporation (celebration every 25 yrs). City Council sponsor event.

A. April 1 - July 4 - series of events that local civic groups will participate in (Vineda & Jay will represent the Rec Committee and be asked to brainstorm). Diana Kohn planning.

B. Event on 6/20/15 - maybe late afternoon picnic at Ed Wilhelm field - music & free food. Events inside Community Cntr. Maybe evening performance on outdoor stage, or dance at PBES.

IV. July 4th 2015

A. No one has volunteered to take over organizing parade. Will try advertising in TP newsletter. Howard will get us a complete job description so we can share with anyone we think may be interested. Maryann has agreed to do it one last time. She is moving in the summer. Would be nice to have a volunteer early enough so she could train them.

V. Gardens

A. Maple Ave - cold frames protecting kale, lettuce, chard, arugula till beginning of 2015. Help yourself.

Rec Department Updates:

VI. TP Rec Center on New Hampshire Ave - RFP for renovate/rebuild issued late Oct. Proposal deadline 11/21/14. City Council will award proposal in Jan 2015. **The Rec**

Committee passed a motion stating that we want to see feasibility proposals and be involved in the decision making process. Mayor Williams needs to know. Lew will tell Greg.

VII. Summer Youth Program – Rec Dpt & MoCo Conservation Corps have preliminary agreement to let a few of our kids participate with them & do some projects. Howard & Cindy will share list of possible projects with Daryl. Greg has been tasked with adding a green job or green function to Rec Dpts existing program. Rec Dpt doesn't have the resources to manage an additional program at the moment. Debby is talking with MoCo Rec Dpt to see if we can get a few of our kids into their program. Rec Dpt staff looking for more business partners. No news on whether businesses will chip in to pay kids.

VIII. Teen Room renovation - had great re-grand opening party recently. 75-100 kids participated. Had DJ, food, & fun. Still waiting on cabinets & sink to be installed. Rm is open 3 - 7pm & has adult supervision.

Some on Rec Committee concerned that the room has too much technology (3 TV, Xbox, WII, sound system & speakers) and not enough opportunities for other kinds of activity. Would have been nice if the committee had be consulted before all of the tech was purchased. Rec dpt is trying to draw kids back into the space, and feel they need to give them something worth coming there for, or they'll go somewhere else to get it. Feel it's more important for them to be here, safe, enjoying themselves than on the street or in some other bad situation, than for them to have tech restrictions. Rec Committee would like to hear from Lecia what her long term plans are for the teens when they spend time in the teen room.

IV. Celebrate Takoma 2015 - Sunday May 17, 2015 – will have vendor applications on-line this time.

Additional Items of Importance:

Priscilla suggests we start IDing stake holders for NH Rec Cntr so they can have a voice in the construction process when we get to that point. Maybe invite people who care to brunch at the Rec Cntr to begin conversation.

Meeting ended at 8:30pm.