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Recreation Committee Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 2011
6:30 pm
Brooklyn Community Building

Jill Van Den Eng called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Jill Van Den Eng, Dorothy Frandy, Helen McCord, Tari Lust, Stacey Hardy, Stacy Wolfe and Ginger Valiska were in attendance. Also in attendance were Rebecca Fenstermann and Brit Springer.

McCord made a motion to approve meeting minutes from October 6, 2011. Valiska seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Van Den Eng introduced Brit Springer and Rebecca Fenstermann, two village residents who are interested in joining the Recreation committee. Springer is a new resident and also part of the Wisconsin Historical Society and other local organizations. Fenstermann has lived in the Brooklyn area for 25 years and is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in New Glarus and the American Legion Riders association.

Hardy made a motion to approve Brit Springer as a member of the Recreation Committee. Wolfe seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

McCord made a motion to approve Rebecca Fenstermann as a member of the Recreation Committee. Lust seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Website update – Brooklyn Recreation is now on Facebook. Committee members were encouraged to “like” our page. Springer works with Facebook daily and had some ideas for getting more fans.

The sandwich board is being printed by Wisconsin Sign & Graphics in Brooklyn. It will include interchangeable fronts attached with Velcro to promote multiple events for the committee.

Budget review – The committee reviewed revenues and expenses in 2011. Fundraising money should be directed to the LGIP fund, which does not zero out at the end of the year. This fund is intended for the purchase of park equipment and holiday decorations.

The committee currently has no goal for the fund, as there isn't enough money accumulated.

The committee expressed a desire to have its own money box rather than borrow one from the clerk's office for every event. This would be particularly helpful for the Get Fit program that has weekly transactions. The committee would need to come up with seed money for the box. It would be locked and kept with the popcorn machine.

The budget for July 4, 2012 was cut to \$250. Donations are needed for the fireworks to happen. Local banks contributed last year. The committee will draft a letter for local businesses to solicit donations for fireworks.

The committee needs to explore fireworks facilitators. Bartolotta, the company who put on the fireworks display in 2011, will not return to Brooklyn. Dan Dean is interested in putting on a show at a discounted price. Frandy will look into the required licenses and insurance before hiring someone.

Ice rink update – The Recreation committee has provided volunteers to help set up the ice rink in the past. Van Den Eng will look into when the ice rink is installed and inform the committee. There was concern about the rink being poorly maintained last year and snow was not removed from the surface. That is an issue for public works.

Water Tower park was discussed. The park is sparse, meant to accommodate little children in the neighborhood. It is too sparse to be fun for some kids. The committee wants a sandbox at that location. Other equipment, like a bouncy animal or a spinning swing will be explored. Improvements may have to wait until spring, as public works announced the parks are closed for the season.

Family movie night takes place on Saturday, November 5. The planned movie had to be changed due to changing DVD release dates. Rio will be played instead. Volunteers to work the movie were confirmed. There was a good turnout in October.

The committee decided to show movies in February and March. There was a small turnout in January and February in past years. It could have been the weather or the movie choices.

Winterfest was discussed. Valiska plans to do a Holiday Helping Days, providing crafts and activities for young children on December 3 from 1-3 p.m. She needs to find five volunteers to run the program and hasn't had luck yet. She will call the head of the National Honor Society and church organizations. She will request volunteers not text while at the event, as it is a distraction and makes volunteers unapproachable to children in the program.

Valiska hopes to have information to the school by November 16. The building is reserved.

The Recreation committee has lights for trees, but no decorations for the gazebo. Van Den Eng will look into this. There is money in the budget to buy holiday decorations.

Van Den Eng asked the committee if it was interested in putting on a Holiday House Decorating Contest.

Advertising could be a problem. The committee could put it on Facebook, the village website, put flyers around town and in the December newsletter. The contest would be limited to houses in the village limits. The committee would be the judges. Committee members' houses would not be eligible for the contest.

First, second and third prizes will be awarded on or after December 15.

The Recreation committee will not host a caroling event this year. It was poorly attended and cold.

Get Fit update – The Zumba classes on Thursday nights at the community building are successful. There are 15 to 20 people attending classes and asking for more. Lust secured an instructor to continue the six week program another four weeks if she can get at least nine people interested.

Lust plans to resume exercise classes in March and again in the fall.

The committee briefly discussed starting a walking/running group when there are no classes.

A possible 5K run was discussed. Hardy talked to the person who plans the 5K during Oregon's Summerfest. The 5k is an investment of \$1,500 to \$2,000, mostly for timing equipment. T-shirts can be donated. This money can be recovered with entrance fees.

Hardy will look into options of purchasing or renting timing equipment and partnering with other entities.

The 5K run would most likely happen on Labor Day weekend in conjunction with the EMS celebration. Frandy will discuss it with EMS.

The committee needs to work out the number of volunteers needed to do a 5K run, the EMS involvement, map routes and have them approved by the police chief.

Softball leagues are saturated with no need for another in Brooklyn. Volleyball leagues are in the bars and unwilling to leave them. There is some interest in kickball leagues, but finding an open evening is challenging with competing leagues in adjoining communities.

New ideas – Card party for seniors. The committee would like to include senior recreation events. Frandy suggested a card party for seniors. Discussion followed about how to do that. It should be a daytime event, as seniors may not want to go out at night.

There are monthly senior luncheons in the village. The committee will further explore the luncheons to see what seniors want for entertainment.

Frandy made a motion to adjourn. Wolfe seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

The next Recreation Committee meeting will be on Thursday, December 1. Time will depend on whether there are exercise classes.