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Recreation Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2012
6:30 pm
Brooklyn Community Building

Jill Van Den Eng called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Jill Van Den Eng, Dorothy Frandy, Tari Lust, Stacey Hardy, Stacy Wolfe and Brit Springer were in attendance. Nadine Walsten was also present.

Hardy made a motion to approve meeting minutes from December 15, 2011. Lust seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Committee members reviewed the budget. No discussion.

Family movie night was discussed. The committee had decided to continue to have movie nights in February and March because of good turnouts in fall. The February movie will be "Mr. Popper's Penguins." This movie was to be shown at an earlier date, but the DVD release was delayed. Committee members discussed possible movies for March. Showing the newest releases is desired. Several committee members would like to see the new Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked in March. It is still in the theaters, and may not be on DVD by March 3. "Gnomeo and Juliet" is the alternative.

Committee members signed up for movie shifts for February and March. Van Den Eng will send out reminders the week of the movie. It may be too difficult to put the banner in frozen, snow covered ground. Flyers were distributed to schools and Van Den Eng will put the sandwich board sign in front of the community building the week prior to the movie.

Frandy is putting together a committee dedicated to the July 4 event. It will include community members, business owners and some Recreation Committee members.

Frandy, Van Den Eng and Walsten will meet with Dan Dean on Feb. 1 to discuss fireworks. Dean has expressed an interest in doing the fireworks. The project may also be bid out. Bartolotta, which did the fireworks in 2011 will not do another show for budgeted amount.

Donations must be acquired for fireworks. The committee discussed how to approach local businesses for donation. The committee does not want to contact businesses multiple times for donations for different events. Walsten has a list of business contacts in the village. The committee may consider the interests of the companies to better target donators.

Entertainment was briefly discussed. A local band, Black Sheep, played last year and was affordable. Other ideas were to bring in a juggler or a juggling group from Oregon.

Hardy proposed the committee do a fun run in June to raise money for fireworks. This would be an alternative to an earlier idea to have a 5K race on Labor Day during the EMS Labor Day celebration. The June fun run would avoid traffic and parking hassles during the EMS Labor Day celebration and the fund raising would be timely a month before the fireworks event.

The fun run would be a family event, with participants invited to run or walk. The fun run would be on a police-approved route, possibly with a portion of some roads blocked off with cones. Safety is important. The committee would solicit donations for t-shirts and water bottles. Timing equipment would not be necessary in a fun run. Charges to participants would be minimal.

Hardy will check dates to not coincide with similar runs in the area, change the entry form and look at routes.

Brooklyn is getting a new scoreboard in Legion Park! The committee would like to have a ribbon cutting event to mark this generous donation from Pellitteri Waste Systems. Public Works was crucial in making it happen, so the committee will defer to them in planning this event. Van Den Eng will contact Public Works Director, Mark Langer, to see what needs to be done to thank the donator and host a public relations event. Local leagues and Pellitteri should be in attendance.

Kickball/softball and other leagues were discussed, since the ball field will now have a scoreboard. Hardy suggested the committee advertise to gauge community interest in forming a league. There is competition for players because there are many leagues in nearby communities.

Van Den Eng expressed a desire for more youth sports in Brooklyn. She will contact sports authorities to inform them of the scoreboard and invite more practices/games in Brooklyn.

Get Fit classes concluded in December. Lust reported that the first six-week fall class made a profit. The following four-week winter class was poorly attended. Zumba classes will resume in October 2012 for a six-week session and again in spring 2013. Lust is also considering two five-week sessions during each season.

Lust will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers from the committee to help man the classes so she doesn't have to be there every week.

Running/walking clubs were discussed. The committee tried to form these in the past with little success. It may be easier to form a running club while taking registrations for the fun run. Walsten suggested a walking club for seniors. Hardy is willing to give it a try to see if anyone is interested.

Family fun night, which was an event for older kids and teens, has been shelved because Ginger Valiska is too busy to plan it. This event wasn't advertised. It is a good idea that may resurface when Valiska isn't so busy.

Summer Youth Recreation planning has started. Wolfe will contact the employees from last year to see if they are interested in returning. If not, she will start advertising the position of director and aides on job boards starting in February.

Van Den Eng asked if the committee should continue to charge a fee for the program, since it was not well attended last year. Last year was the second year the program charged a fee. The fee was introduced to inspire better, more consistent attendance. The fee is small (\$15 for the six-week program and \$5 for each additional child). The committee wanted to continue charging the fee.

New ideas – There may be a donation coming similar to that for the scoreboard. The donator would like the money to go toward park equipment. It was decided equipment in Water Tower park is most needed. Most needed are: a bench for parents to sit on, landscaping, trees or a small shelter for shade, or bouncy animals.

Frandy made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Hardy seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.