

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT RECREATION BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD ON JUNE 17, 2009 AT 7:30 A.M.

Chairperson Lori Dixon called the June 17 meeting of the Ottawa Hills Joint Recreation Board to order at 7:36 a.m. In attendance were Gretchen Rohm, Willis Day, Margaret Rodriguez, Norma King, and Chair Lori Dixon. Also in attendance were School Superintendent Cathy Heidelberg, Recreation Coordinator Bev Gottlieb, Dorothy Figy and Marc Thompson. Additionally, Nasrin Afjeh was in attendance.

Mr. Thompson reported that although the minutes from the previous two meetings had been prepared they had not been distributed. Therefore, consideration of minutes from the previous two meetings would occur on the next agenda.

Superintendent of Schools Cathy Heidelberg suggested that presentations from the Board of Education be deferred until the next meeting. This allowed Bev Gottlieb to proceed with the presentation regarding her role in the recreation efforts of the community.

Mrs. Gottlieb distributed a copy of the current brochure providing information to citizens regarding course offerings. She also provided a copy of a blank form used by the Board of Education for scheduling facility use.

Mrs. Gottlieb stated that she has been in her position for 15 years and tries to provide the highest quality program at a reasonable fee. She stated that the initial goal of the program established by the Village council when she started was to have the recreation program be a "break even" program. In that period of time that goal has not been achieved although there have been times when the net cost of the program was as low as \$3,000. The net cost of the program annually ranges from about \$3,000 to about \$11,000. Mrs. Gottlieb pointed out that one of the contributing factors was a decision by the Board of Education approximately five years ago to cease funding the program in the amount of \$2,000 annually.

Mrs. Gottlieb continued by informing the Recreation Board that her position was budgeted and scheduled for 25 hours per week. This is not consistent throughout the year as she works longer hours during the busier times.

Adult programming is very important because approximately 60% of the residents in the community have no children in the school system. Therefore, strong adult programming and use of school facilities brings adults into the facilities who might not otherwise have a reason to view the schools. Generally, the adult classes have been successful and are well received by the participants.

For children's programming a goal is to have developmentally appropriate youth activities. Among those activities are sports camps, science, music, art and dance classes. Additionally, babysitting classes, Safety Village, boating and swimming classes are offered.

Among Mrs. Gottlieb's duties are development of the brochure, publicity, supervision of the camps, registration, payroll and supplies. She emphasized the strong cooperation between the Village recreation program and the school administrative and custodial staff. Most of the programs sponsored by the Village take place in school facilities. In addition, Mrs. Gottlieb is also responsible for the annual town meeting, the new resident coffees and meeting with as many new residents as possible.

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— Mrs. Gottlieb identified a topic for consideration by the Joint Recreation Board being a level of confusion in the community about the recreation programs and their relationship to sports activities. The increasing amount of competition for facilities is another major concern. She thought that more time for publicity for programming would be helpful as well as more time to meet with new residents. Mrs. Gottlieb felt that meeting with new residents was a key to welcoming people to the community and a key to having them become participants in recreation programs. She expressed concern about the need for background checks for adult volunteers. Many of her programs rely on adult volunteers and if background checks are particularly cumbersome or expensive, volunteering may diminish.


School Superintendent Cathy Heidelberg stated that the school system representatives would prefer to have a more detailed presentation at the next meeting but could provide a brief review of priorities and scheduling issues that they face when dealing with demand for limited facilities. Among the criteria used to prioritize facility use are in-season sports, largest number of children participating, groups with higher number of Village residents, etc. They reported that the quarterly scheduling meetings have been very helpful in organizing the facilities schedules although additional support from the Recreation Board is necessary. Brief discussion followed regarding the potential for a fee which might distinguish between residents of the Village and non-residents.

Mrs. Heidelberg and Mrs. Figy also expressed concern about the background checks and costs ranging from \$65 to \$90 and its impact on the volunteer leaders. However, state requirements mandate background checks in many situations.

— Mr. Thompson then provided a financial review of Geresy Field costs for 2007 and 2008. During those years capital expenses for Geresy Field ranged from about \$23,500 to \$27,000 and annual operating expenses ranged from about \$39,400 to almost \$45,000.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Recreation Board would occur on July 8 at 7:30 a.m.

Mrs. Dixon asked everyone present to identify four top priorities and long range and short range goals for discussion at future meetings. After additional discussion regarding restrictions on facilities and scheduling generally, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

  
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Willis Day, Secretary