

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT RECREATION BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD ON JULY 22, 2009 AT 7:30 A.M.

Lori Dixon, Chair of the Joint Recreation Board of the Village of Ottawa Hills called the July 22, 2009 meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. In attendance, in addition to Chair Lori Dixon, were board members Willis Day, Norma King and Gretchen Rohm. Also present were Village Manager Marc Thompson and Nasrin Afjeh. Margaret Rodriguez was absent from the meeting.

Mrs. King made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 8 meeting. Mr. Day seconded the motion.

The next topic for discussion was the format of the upcoming August 5 meeting. Mrs. Dixon stated that a letter had been sent to many people who have been identified as leaders in the various youth groups, such as the Soccer Association, lacrosse, etc. She said that the list was not complete and asked for members of the board to identify any other names which should be added to the list and then invited to the meeting. She also asked that the letter be sent to the other members of the board. Several names were suggested and were added to the list and those individuals will receive invitations as well. Mrs. Dixon also said that there would be an article in an upcoming Village Voice making the community aware of the meeting.

Regarding the format of the meeting it was agreed that meetings generally and the August 5 meeting would be held to 90 minutes. Chair Dixon said that there should be open discussion and that she was hoping that the board would do most of the listening so that those people who were in attendance would be providing information to the board so that the board could then have a full understanding of whatever issues, concerns or problems they had. She said that she hoped that this would help establish an inventory of priorities and additionally should help people in the community know that the Recreation Board is at work and trying to improve recreational opportunities.

Mrs. King commented that she may not be in attendance on August 5.

Mrs. Dixon also stated that it might make sense to tell the participants in the August 5 meeting that they could address one topic at a time in hopes to identify as many issues as possible and perhaps a three minutes time limit per issue would be appropriate. She emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was to gain information not to solve problems at the meeting.

Attention then turned to background checks for adult leaders involved in youth activities. Mrs. King had done substantial work on this subject and spoke with Bev Gottlieb and Chief Overmeyer. Mrs. King stated that there were various options regarding volunteer background checks. For \$35 there is a service which will provide an Ohio criminal history review and a review of sex offenders. This review does not require finger printing. For \$55 a more extensive review can occur that does involve finger printing. This can be done at the Area Office on Aging and the Lucas County Educational Services Office.

Discussion followed regarding who would be required to have background checks since many of the youth organizations have one or two recognized leaders but many other volunteers who are active with various youth organizations.

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Gretchen Rohm provided some background she had found on the internet from an organization called the National Association for Youth Sports which may help in establishing a requirement regarding background checks.

Discussion also followed regarding what would have happened with information that was gained through a background check. Other questions involved who would pay for background checks, can it be required, other ways to reduce the cost, can we standardize the process. Mrs. King will continue to work on background checks and report back to the board.

Attention then turned to website design. Mrs. Rohm reported that she needed to talk with school people but thought that there could be a place on the school website as a starting point for a website but eventually the Recreation Board should have its own website with links to both the Village and school website.

Under the discussion of priorities for the Joint Recreation Board Mr. Day volunteered to work on a code of regulations and have a draft to the board by August 19. It would deal with structural and procedural items, such as how many board members are required to constitute a quorum, or does the board take action by the vote of a simple majority or does it take more than a majority.

Mrs. Dixon reminded everyone that she wanted to make certain, that although the formal title is the Joint Recreation Board, that the board would be responsible for a broader range of activities than simply recreational activities. Initial discussions months ago involved the concept of "office of Village life" which would incorporate efforts to welcome new members, an annual town hall meeting, etc. in addition to recreational opportunities.

Mrs. King suggested that in the short term perhaps the focus should be on recreational activities such as prioritization of fields, requirements for field usage, etc. and in the long term the scope of the board could expand to include other items which everyone agreed should be part of the consideration.

Attention then turned to discussion of rules and enforcement of rules recognizing that this will be one of the short term goals. Mrs. Dixon asked that various rules for each of the facilities be gathered so that the Recreation Board would have a clear understanding. Along with that a development of what enforcement opportunities existed for the board to make sure the rules are followed. The rules and the enforcement may be specific to each location. It was agreed that at least some public notice through signage might be appropriate at each location identifying basic rules or describing who has authority to schedule. Perhaps there should be a committee on rules and a committee on enforcement. Mr. Day volunteered to work on enforcement options and Mrs. Dixon assigned Margaret Rodriguez to work on rules. It was the hope of everyone present that something could be done quickly in this regard prior to the commencement of the school year.

Chair person Dixon also hoped that there could be an inventory of space developed with a profile of each facility describing rules, contacts, facility capacity, etc.

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Mrs. Dixon also confirmed that Mr. Day would work on bi-laws and that Mrs. Rohm would work on signage and the website. In that regard Mr. Day suggested that need of improvement regarding bi-laws would relate to minutes.

After brief discussion Mr. Day made a motion to approve all of the minutes up to date. Mrs. King seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Discussion followed regarding a standardized scheduling process trying to combine the methods that were described by Dorothy Figy and Bev Gottlieb. Mrs. Dixon will talk with Bev to get additional input.

Mr. Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 a.m. Mrs. Rohm seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

  
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Willis Day, Secretary