

Recreation Committee Minutes
Village of Shorewood Hills
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Old Village Hall/DPW Building, 1008 Shorewood Boulevard

1. Meeting called to order at 7:41 pm by committee chair Anne Readel.
 - a. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Janet McCain, Lori DiPrete Brown, Andy Alexander, Lucy Richards, and Anne Readel. Village Deputy Clerk, Karla Endres, and Village resident, Lisa Wells, were also present.
 - b. **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** The meeting was properly posted.
 - c. **Approval of Minutes.** November 10 and December 15 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2. **Land Recreation Program.** Lisa Wells is the Director of the Land Recreation Program, along with Tracy Bailey. Tracy was unable to attend but she provided feedback to Lisa to share with the Committee. When Lisa accepted the position she was not able to shadow anyone as she did not overlap with the prior Director. The Committee noted that this appears to be a recurring issue as it becomes increasingly difficult recruit new Directors. However, Lisa reported that Tracy has committed to directing the program next year so there will be continuity with the Director position.

Lisa noted the difficulty in interviewing and recruiting program staff. Lisa noted that they hired too many program staff for the number of children that eventually signed up for the program last year. The Committee discussed the fact that fewer children signed up for the program last year than in previous years. The Committee wondered if it might be due to increased cost of the program or fact that it is not a “rain or shine” program. The Committee suggested that Village staff start to survey parent and children participants after the program to determine their experience with the program. Lisa agreed to send Karla some questions to include in the survey. Karla agreed to send out the survey.

Lisa also reported that Tracy thinks that interviews should be earlier than March. She further does not believe there was enough communication between the Village staff and the kids that got hired as program staff. She believes we need to be quicker with the hiring process. Lucy noted that the interviews have happened over spring break in the past and questioned whether this was a problem. Lisa noted that this isn't necessarily a problem, however, as students can be interviewed over Skype and Directors have found an alternative interview times. Lori suggested that if we want to recruit college students for program staff positions, we should send the notice of job opportunities to parents with the suggestion that they pass it on to their children.

Lisa also indicated that Tracy would also like more access to the budget. Karla informed Lisa that Tracy may email her and ask for the budget and she will provide it to her at any time. Karla further suggested that the Directors have a meeting with her before interviews to talk about the budget for the upcoming year in order to allow Directors to start purchasing materials earlier.

Lisa also believes that all the program staff and Directors need to meet before their first day to discuss the program. Lori suggested that past participants talk with program staff to help them understand the culture of the program. Some of that information has been included in the program binder.

Lucy noted that there used to be a snack involved with the program. The program price was raised to include the price of food, but food is no longer provided so there is a surplus in the program. Lucy suggested that the program hire outside people to add activities to the program (art, circus skills, zoo, etc.). Lisa thought that would bring in additional activities and give the program staff more ability to lead and refresh the program.

Tracy believes that the children of Directors should go for the full two sessions for free, regardless of whether there are one or two Directors. Lisa indicated that two people need to do it and should both be compensated for it. She suggested we draft a comprehensive policy on how to reward the volunteers in all Recreation programs, and not just Four Corners and Land Recreation. The Committee thought that the Recreation programs should be surveyed to determine how many hours are required for each of the programs.

The Committee questioned whether it was feasible to make a “rain or shine” program for either Four Corners or Land Rec because it is questionable whether the facilities can accommodate the kids during bad weather. If we could consider this, we would need protocols to dictate what happens if it’s raining/thundering at the start of the day or if it starts raining/thundering during the day.

The Committee also suggested that we also put something in the bulletin about Land Rec and advertising for the need for another Director in 2018, as the Committee suggested for the Four Corners program at the 12-15 meeting.

Playground at Four Corners: Karla reported that Karl received a playground bid for a new structure at Four Corners. Option 1 is \$20,200. Option 1 + Option 2 is \$43,000. The Committee would like to have some additional bids for consideration. Lori asked why we aren’t going green and putting in an alternative structure (like at Post Farm Park). Lori suggested that we further investigate those options.

- 3. Adjourned.** The Committee adjourned at 9:20 pm.