



MEETING MINUTES
DURHAM P&R COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 24 2022
7:00pm
Town Council Chambers



Call to order-7pm

Call to Order Cathy Leach called the meeting to order at 7pm

In attendance: Joel Friedman, Rachel Gasowski, Cathie Leach, Al Howland, Tracy Schroeder, Michael Drooker joined late on zoom

Approval of Agenda

Al made a motion, Tracy seconded. Unanimous approval.

Approval of Minutes

-April 19, 2022 Al made a motion to approve the minutes, Tracy seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously

Public Comments Nell Neal, chair of the IMAC committee. They are adopting the phrase-Sustainable Durham, includes recycling, composting, and more. Sustainability an embedded theme of Durham. She has spoken with the Ag committee who are fully on board. NRRA, an organization involved state wide (Durham belongs) sustainable practices. Their motto is recycle right. IMAC is going to use their education materials and flood social media, have a showing at Durham Days, and at other events.

Roundtable (10 minutes)

Joel said the Town council approved the Parks and Rec goals

It was also mentioned that Durham was looking into more after school programs for pre-school. A community member with a background in environmental education. Rachel has a planned meeting with this community member to talk about need and her vision. ORPP a potential partner. Looking at 2024. This would give time to look at our resources.

Update from the Parks & Recreation Director (10 minutes)

The website has been update with the OR paddling

Update on the Parks and Rec Charter sent to Jenny. Given the OK and will be updated on the Town website. Last Teacher workshop day camp will be this Friday. Limited to 12 fills up very quickly. Churchill Rink where a skate board company will be then going to Hilltop fun center.

Planning for Memorial Day, Durham Day, and after school programing.

Shout out to the School District, wants to thank them. Running after school programs 5 days a week. They have been very helpful. So grateful for the partnerships that Parks and Rec has. Thank you School District!

Upcoming Events (10 minutes)

-Memorial Day Planning Update - well underway. Monday, May 30th at 10am at Memorial Park on Main Street. Kitty Marple will make remarks, a 7th grade student will sing the National Anthem. Nathan Borne of the Episcopal church will make remarks. Michael Mone, a 5th grade student, will be reciting the Gettysburg address. Brigade will do the rifle volley. Scout troupe 154 lowering the flag. Musical tribute.

-Durham Day Planning Update- Meeting bi-weekly. Downtown on June 4, starts at 12:30-2:30. Multiple activities on Main Street. 66 Main will have close to 20 stations, organizations, committees, etc. Jenkins court will be closed off with tables. Trying to get restaurants involved with deals, samples, or some other way to participate. They are slowly coming on board, hoping to get more by next week. First Durham Day in 3 years.

Business:

-Appointment of Committee Chair & Vice Chair

Cathie is nominated to be chair by Rachel, Tracy seconded. unanimously voted in.

-2022 Goals Updates/Planning

Connecting with Lee and Madbury Recreation Committees, Rachel has spoken with Madbury, wonders how to open the conversation with Lee. Al suggests an opening would be talking with both committees at the completion of the Reach program. Looking at how we can make the program more sustainable, looking if there is duplication, or at ways to collaborate. Rachel will take the lead on that goal.

We have one opening for a regular committee member, and 3 alternate positions. We are all responsible for recruiting new members. Al suggested to advertise after Durham Day. We need 4 members for a quorum.

Cathie would like to add the goal to get data that supports our mission. Devise a template that data can be added on a yearly basis so it is easily presented to the Town Council Al stated that it is important when the Town Council does the budget. Collecting numbers of community events participants may have to be estimated. Michael Drooker spoke to how the land stewardship committee has sampled participants. One was by optical counters on the trails, another was via questionnaires. Joel suggested asking Police to estimate the crowd size. Facebook has over 400 probable attending.

In regards to the Strategic plan process and devising a survey, Cathie reached out to the UNH survey center. It would involve 12-22 weeks to develop. Total project cost around \$6800. Willing to meet with Rachel and Cathie. Rachel and Cathie are meeting with a library representative about survey they devised in house. Once they have the information they will present their findings to the committee and we will decide which way to proceed. Cathie is leaning towards spending money on a facilitator who will help guide the survey and what to do with the information gained from the survey.

Cathie reviewed some survey questions from a 2019 done by the survey center. Discussion ensued about what should be added or amended.

Discussed meeting with other groups who have recently done a survey and strategic plan.

-June Meeting Planning (Tues., June 28). Agenda should include feedback on Durham Day. Results of meeting with library regarding survey and strategic plan. Will take a month off in the summer, plan on July and meet again in August.

Adjourn by 8:32 pm