

# **DURHAM PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, August 27, 2024**

7:00 p.m.

Town Council Chambers

**Call to Order** Al Howland called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance: Joe Friedman, Rachel Gasowski, Al Howland, Matt Swiesz, Myrta Janosz, Erin Guyotte, Tracy Schroeder.

**Approval of Agenda:** Tracy made a motion to approve the agenda, Matt seconded. Agenda approved, 6-0.

**Approval of Minutes** – June 25, 2024 minutes. Joe made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 25, 2024; Matt seconded. Minutes were approved, 5-0. Tracy abstained as she was not present at the June meeting.

July 23, 2024 minutes. There was no approval of formal minutes for the July meeting as there was not a quorum present.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

## **Roundtable:**

Myrta reported on the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. Lots of work on the trails. The flyer is out for the upcoming Discover Durham Trails program.

## **Update from the Parks & Recreation Director & Upcoming Events:**

- Summer camp wrapped up last Friday. It was a great summer! Lots of new staff, young people who have worked up from campers to CIT to Junior counselors. Rachel gave a shout out to her great staff and the partnerships that made it a successful summer.
- Some department stats to this point:
  - Youth program opportunities - 66 offered/975 registrations
  - Adult program opportunities - 59/533 registrations
  - Gunstock family ski - 179 registrations

All numbers are up.

- Summer camp registrations - 561 over 9.5 weeks
- REACH camp registrations - 139
- Rec Desk: 4,633 members
- Constant Contact Email List: 2,318 subscribers
- Facebook: 2,100 followers
- Instagram: 528 followers

Many partnerships with outside groups make these programs possible.

New in 2024:

- After school pottery class at Mud City Clay
- Surf Camp – 12 kids ages 10+
- 2 Adult Tours with Collette Travel. Will partner again next year for trips to CA and Tuscany.
- Kids Night Out

-Lined 4 temp pickle ball courts at Woodridge Park. No noise complaints.

-Discover Durham Trails – first walk has 31 people interested.

-Significant growth in After School program with 7 Rivers Paddling. 7 Rivers does most of the staffing; Parks and Rec does most of the administration. Last year = 234 registrations; This year = 279 so far.

-Upcoming community events: Downtown Trick or Treat 10/26.

### **Business:**

- Draft Committee Report to Town Council – 9/9/24. Cathy Leach sent members a draft report to review. There were no changes to the report. Al commented how important the report is as the Town Council determines the budget.
- DPR Fees Subcommittee Report – Cathy sent members a draft report for review to present to Rachel, Administrator Selig, and Business Manager Jablonski. There were no changes to the report. Al commented on how the report shows that Durham is in line with other towns. Rachel commented that no towns are exactly alike, and towns don't have a standard fee structure. But Durham is comparable to other towns. Tracy made a motion to approve the Fees Subcommittee report; seconded by Matt. The committee approved the report, 6-0.
- Housing Task Force Update – Al reported there are three properties in Durham that can be developed for workforce housing. To meet the need, we need to build over 400 units. Al asked the committee what are our needs when thinking of these new developments. Parks? Courts? Playgrounds? Accessibility? Bike paths? Community centers? Al will reach out to Heather Grant and Sally Tobias as to what similar projects look like. Myrta asked how do we know what to build and who needs housing. Al said that Parks & Rec needs space; having the HTF present at an upcoming meeting will give us an opportunity to provide input regarding future spaces to benefit the community.
- Review of Committee Goals - deferred until September meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 24; 7 pm

**Adjourn:** Tracy made a motion to adjourn, Matt seconded. Approval to adjourn, 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.