

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
1/11/23

Attending: Andrea Ernst (AE), Jon Mortimer (JM), Jill Palmore (JP) and Christine Syska (CS)

Absent: Terri Patterson and Tara Simopoulos

Meeting opened at 5:35 pm - Kathy Raftice

Motion to approve draft minutes from December 14, 2022 meeting by JP, second by AE, motion passed (4 – Yes, 0 – No)

Public Comment - None

Correspondence – None

CECS Updates

KR opened meeting by welcoming our new member Christine Syska. KR then brought committee up to date on Christmas storm damage beginning with walk around building. KR discussed the timeline for repairs/location changes/communication and asked for suggested ways to improve as many still didn't know about the damages. JM suggested a mass email. All agreed. JP suggested using the email group we send the newsletter to. Those that have helped up with location changes are; Cape Elizabeth Methodist Church, CEFD, Town Hall, Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, school department and facilities. In the end only had to cancel 1 class – Spin! KR explained that registration for Spring/Summer will have 2 dates as the committee previously discussed. March 26 @ 8:00 pm for all spring and Adult Summer followed by April 2nd for Youth Summer Programs only! This will be a little confusing but we will send out communication to try and help all understand. All department heads are working on budget for FY24 which is due to Town Manager by 1/20/23.

Youth

Bethany Blake our new Youth Assistant started – roughly 20 hours per week. Covering weekends to take work load pressures off Susan Frost. KR shared that winter registration went extremely well. Susan Frost has been busy relocating some youth programs. Communications are being sent as soon as solidified. Pleasant Mountain (100 registered) begins Thursday. Still will drop off equipment downstairs and buses will pick up out back; this has worked well for the past couple years. We did cancel December vacation camp however we are advertising for February and April now. KR provided ice skating update and coordination between Cape Ice Arena and Community Services. We sold 43 MS Hockey Season Passes, 51 in Learn to Skate program and 16 in Learn to Play Hockey program. We are happy with results and have purchased Home Depot Buckets for kids to use while learning to skate. Our chess tournament will be taking place this Saturday from 9-4 at the Pond Cove gym, we have roughly 40 registered.

Adults & Seniors

Linda Strunk has been busy relocating classes and communicating with instructors and participants. Additionally she has scheduled the dates of our next brochure roll-out and designed the cover which features our Sounds by the Sea performers and attendees. She has also been booking our performers for this coming summer. At this time she has booked 4 of our 6 weeks! Jane Anderson has been working on senior programs, our newsletter, posts on social media and an article for the Cape Courier. She is also responsible for locking in sponsors for Sounds by the Sea and we are optimistic we will have a fully sponsored summer.

Pool & Fitness

KR brought the committee up to date on the pool. HS swim season and their swim meets have begun. Pool parties are booking out fast! Private lessons remain a challenge. KR explained how they are handled now and working through options on how this could work better. The same people continually have private lessons with rarely new folks fitting in. Committee discussed some different scenarios. We don't want to end lessons if someone has established a relationship with instructor however there are not enough instructors to take on all those new requesting private lessons. Should we take a survey on when people may be available for group lessons and add? Reserve times through Sign-Up Genius or Activenet? This will continue to be worked on.

Cape Care

We are waiting on the particulars for Public PreK. Registration normally opens for our present participants in late February and then opens to general public in March so we need to be providing some information soon. Preschoolers begin dance with Julie Wilkes, Brio Dance Studio.

Fort Williams/PHL Update

KR provided update on registrations. Non-resident registrations opened on January 1st and we have been very busy, dates and times filling. We are expecting additional cruise ships this season which leads to more buses in the park. We will be hiring rangers and greeters and will post the job openings in our February 1 newsletter. Additionally we will be posting a position at Portland Head Light while continually looking for volunteers. KR and Rosanne Rogers, Gift Shop Manager have been meeting with vendors and purchasing merchandise for what expects to be a busy summer season.

Meeting adjourned 6:40 pm

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Raftice