

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2007
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

Present: Courtney Thoreck, Bill Marshall, Bruce Abramson, Peter Daly, Catie Fairbanks-Cliffe, Courtney Hale-Toon, Sue Weatherbie, Janet Hoskin

Absent: Loralee Schaedel,

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Commission Chairperson, Catie Fairbanks-Cliffe.

1. Minutes from the November 15, 2006 meeting were approved as emailed. Sue introduced and welcomed Courtney Thoreck and Peter Daly as new Commission members.
2. Adult Winter/Spring Program Update – Many programs are underway. You never know what's hot and what's not! In the fall, the dance classes were cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. This semester, they are full with waiting lists. The class about owls had to be expanded due to the number of enrollments. A new cycling/spinning class has been very popular. The Women's Wellness Seminar was huge last year, and to date we have only a handful registered this year. Other than the regular cash cows, you never know what's hot!
3. Winter Youth Programs– Ski Programs: The Shawnee Peak program numbers are at an all time high with 101 enrollments. To date we have gotten in 3 sessions and we have two to go plus the Family Ski day. Kelly Phinney is doing a great job directing this year's program. **Travel Basketball Program:** We have a great contingent of volunteer coaches. Their season will wind down around the first of March. **Saturday Basketball Program:** Several Commission members who have children in the program provided positive feedback. They remarked that having the high school varsity players be involved provides role models for the younger athletes. **Nordic Ski Program:** Had a good season despite the lack of snow early on. Thirteen 5th graders practiced and travel with the Middle School team. On occasion, the teams had to travel further to find snow for practices and meets. **Travel Lacrosse:** Flyers for both the 3/4 and 5/6 boys and girls programs went home through the schools this week. Registration deadline will be around the 1st of March. **Early Release Day Activities:** Have become a huge deal trying to think of different activities that will appeal to all children. Parents want their children occupied on early release afternoons. We have offered a wide variety of activities including: rollerskating, scrapbooking, beading, snow tubing, movies, Jokers, iceskating, swimming and more! Let's just say that the state of the office is

utter chaos on those afternoons. **Toddler gyms:** have been a huge success. We offer them on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with an average attendance in excess of 20.

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4. Extended School Care Program Update: We are finally at full staff and as a result, we have been able to eliminate the waiting list. Our purchasing our own snack continues to save 200-300 dollars per month. More importantly, the snacks are being well received by the children and staff. As of the March bill, families currently enrolled in the program will have priority registration for next year's program. The next group offered space will be incoming kindergarten children followed by open registration for grades 1st -6th.
5. Senior Citizens: The trip to Italy is full with 19 women going. The breakfast programs are very popular. We offer one per month each featuring a speaker. The community services staff continues to be the chefs. Other February programs include; a trip to the Portland Stage, The Lyric Theater, Portland Players Preview night and a Valentines Party with South Portland Parks and Recreation. The free drop-in walking program in the Community Center on Tuesday and Thursday mornings has had small numbers of participants, but those that take advantage of it appreciate the use of the facility.
6. Pool and Fitness Center Update: Things have been very busy due to the weather not being very conducive for outdoor activities. We are fully staffed in both facilities. Two Fitness Center staff are also certified lifeguards, which gives them the opportunity for more hours of employment. It also makes scheduling much easier in the event of staff absence and vacations. We are still struggling with custodial scheduling to insure a clean facility. Some competitive swimmers are still complaining of breathing issues during vigorous workouts. A committee continues to look for solutions in better moving the air across the pools. The youth lesson programs continue to attract large numbers. The Barnacles (18 mo-3yrs) have 37 children enrolled, the Ducklings and Dolphins (3 - 5 yrs) have 165 enrolled and the Progressive Lessons (6 yrs and up) has 112 registered with 21 on waiting lists. The adult Master Swim and the water exercises are all well subscribed to.
7. Budgets: Sue distributed the Community Services and Pool Budget narratives and highlighted the proposed differentials between the FY 2007 and 2008 Budgets. The budget workshops are being delayed due to the Superintendent's emergency heart surgery. Community Services will present its budget to the School Board at the Saturday March 24th workshop and to the Town Council at a workshop in April. The commission also discussed the Governor's consolidation plan and asked how it might impact Community Services.
8. Welcome Packets: The packets are in progress, but because Lorelee was absent, a detailed update was unavailable.

9. Other Business: Janet solicited feedback from the Youth Registration Evening. Those that worked felt that the process was still smooth, however back up occurred because we did not have the Community Room as a holding tank after the initial check-in. We also discussed doing the swim lesson piece differently. We will continue to rethink that part of the process. **Election of the Commission Chair**: Catie Fairbanks-Cliffe nominated Courtney Hale-Toon, as the Commission Chair; the vote was unanimous. Sue announced that the next meeting would be Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 7:00 PM in the Community Center Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Weatherbie
Secretary