

MINUTES

CAPE ELIZABETH COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

OCTOBER 1, 2008

7:00PM – 9:00PM

Present: Janet Hoskin, Director, Karen Allen, Adult Program Coordinator, Bruce Abromson, member, Kate Mitchell, member, Courtney Thoreck, member and Betty Roker, Administrative Assistant to the Director.

Absent: Peter Daly, Lorelee Schaedel and Bill Marshall.

1. Vision for the Advisory Commission

Janet Hoskin opened the meeting at 7:05PM and thanked everyone for coming.

Janet discussed the first item on the agenda, Vision for the Advisory Commission. There will be one program coordinator attending each meeting. Karen Allen, Adult Program Coordinator, is in attendance tonight to discuss her areas and to meet commission members. A Youth Program Coordinator will attend the next meeting.

It was decided the commission would meet the first Wednesday of each month. Janet will put together a calendar for everyone to approve.

Janet brought to everyone's attention the need for new members. In addition to Catie Fairbanks-Cliffe who resigned last year, Lorelee Schaedel has resigned and Bruce Abromson will not be returning for another term. Peter Daly's position is in question due to his attendance record. All members indicated they would start a search for new members.

2. Adult Programs Presentation

Karen Allen made her presentation to the members. She attended a conference and workshop on the "A Matter of Balance" program and is now certified to teach the program to senior citizens. She intends to offer a class in the near future.

This fall The 50+/- Physical Activity Workgroup "Easy Adventures!" program was started in conjunction with other area recreation departments and the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. The first event – Rafting/kayaking/canoeing on the Saco River was very successful with 44 people in attendance. The second event – Eastern Prom Bike Ride was postponed due to weather. They will be meeting the end of October to plan winter activities. A Canadian Rockies rail trip is planned for October 12 -19, 2008.

Fourteen people have signed up for this trip.

On September 25th the annual Welcome Back Luncheon took place with a full registration and was very successful.

On October 2, 2008 a trip to the North Shore Theatre is planned with a full registration.

There is also a Fall Foliage trip planned for October 9, 2008.

"I Remember Cape Elizabeth" had its first meeting and was a great success.

The adult swim programs are doing very well, along with Ballroom Dance, Pilates, Tai Chi, Bridge and Spinning.

The art class enrollments are decreasing; Karen is researching what might be done to improve those enrollments.

3. Youth Programs

Janet discussed Youth Programs next. Fall registration went smoothly with a total of 325 registered, which is 62% of those who drew lottery slots.

Youth Skill Builders has 278 soccer players, 21 Field Hockey players, 32 Football players, 37 X-Country runners and 10 Chess players. Travel Basketball flyers will be going out mid October with Saturday Basketball program information to follow.

After School Enrichment is running 13 classes, 10 with waiting lists. There are also ESCAPADE classes being offered and Early Release Days programs.

Preschool numbers are decreasing. More research has to be done to determine how, or if ,the numbers can be increased.

4. Extended School Care

Extended School Care has a new director, Suzanne Martin-Pillsbury. She has many new ideas and is taking the program in new directions. All of last year's staff returned.

Although we are still serving 111 different children and 90 different families, numbers are down and the 2 or 3-day care option is being used more. Snacks are still being purchased from Sam's Club, but alternatives are being researched for healthier snacks.

5. Facility Use

Janet reported about the extensive amount of staff time that scheduling facilities and fields takes. This is an incredible service this department offers the community.

Janet suggested an evening presentation with the school board and town council to educate the public on what exactly it is Community Services does. All members agreed this would be a good way to get the word out. Janet will bring back more information to the next meeting.

6. Other Departments Community Services Oversees

Pool and Fitness Programs:

The pool and swim classes are doing well. In an effort to reduce expenditures, the fitness center is presently closed on Sundays. A petition to open the fitness center on Sundays and extend Saturday hours was received with 63 signatures. A questionnaire will be sent to the people who signed the petition to gather more specific information, before a decision is made.

Custodial Services:

Custodians are now using the team cleaning method for cleaning the schools and Janet is inspecting the schools weekly.

Transportation:

The new school hours had a huge effect on the bus transportation schedule and after school traffic. Problems have been discussed with the schools and they are slowly being

worked out. There is a question as to whether or not school hours will remain the same for the next school year.

Middle School Athletics:

All Middle School Athletics registrations are now going through Community Services. There were 161 students registered for fall sports.

7. Budgets & Financial Implications

Community Services budget started in the negative for FY09 due to reasons beyond the control of the Community Services staff. Janet is monitoring the budget line by line and has been working on looking for more energy efficient ways to run the center.

8. Other Business

Another community's plight with denying a volunteer access to coach, brought to light the need for us to have a procedure in writing. We currently require each coach to present written applications and references and we follow up with a Criminal Record Check. A written statement would help to clarify our position in time of conflict. Youth Program Coordinators will be working on a draft and we welcome commission member feedback.

Janet asked members to consider the following items for the next meeting:

1. Having the community services department do a joint presentation to the town council and school board.
2. Should the senior discount be decreased or remain the same?
3. Making a change to the multi child registration discount?
4. Should there be more specific restrictions on the pool/fitness center scholarship memberships?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.