

**Town of Seven Devils  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
Minutes - Regular Session  
January 11, 2024**

The Town of Seven Devils Parks and Recreation Committee met at 9:00 AM in Town Hall on January 11, 2024. Members present were: Marino Fernandez, Freddie Blonshine, Sarah Brendle, Faye Brock and Ed Beck. Also in attendance were Johnathan Harris, Town Manager and Jewel McKinney, Parks and Recreation Director. Theresa Lindgren, Joe Alfonso, Kay Lambert and Rebecca Ryan were absent.

Town Manager Johnathan Harris asked for nominations for Committee Chairman. Marino Fernandez was nominated for Chair and Ed Beck was nominated for Co-Chair. Both were unanimously approved.

Town Manager Johnathan Harris asked for nominations for Secretary. Freddie Blonshine was nominated and unanimously approved.

Freddie Blonshine moved to approve the Agenda, and Ed Beck seconded. The motion was approved.

Marino Fernandez moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting and Ed Beck seconded. The motion was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. PARTF - Grant for the Park at Seven Devils** - The City is preparing for bids to go out for construction of the Park at Seven Devils. All projects should be completed within three years. The total of the grant is \$500,000 and is a 50/50 match.
- B. Lite the Night 2023 Update** - This event was very successful with 86 participants.
- C. Tee-Shirt Update** - Joe Alfonso is working with Jewel McKinney on pricing the shirts. The TDA has approved funds to start this project. Joe will be here in March with a presentation.
- D. Lecture Series** - The Committee approved starting a lecture series with a Professor from Appalachian State. Marino will contact him to determine a date. Monday, Wednesday or Friday were the available days.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Arbor Day Celebration - April 26th** - April 26, 2024 is the date selected for the celebration. There was discussion on the success rate of planting the trees that are given away. The Committee suggested getting information on pricing for larger trees.
- B. Summer 2024** -
  - 1. Music on the Lawn - The TDA has approved funding for six concerts this season. Jewel McKinney asked for suggestions for additional bands. There will be food trucks available.
  - 2. Bear Decorating Contest - The Committee decided to hold the event in the Park at Seven Devils this year. The Committee will consider having Junior and Adult categories. Jewel McKinney will present the theme for this year at the March meeting.
  - 3. Yard of the Month - This event will continue.
  - 4. Farmers Market - There was mixed success at this event. The Committee decided to try one more year to make it successful.
  - 5. Dog Costume Contest - The Committee decided to hold this event prior to lunch at the Independence Day celebration. The date will be announced.
  - 6. Independence Day Celebration - This is an extremely successful event and will continue next year.
  - 7. Ranger Workshops - There will be five workshops, one per month May through September.
  - 8. Group Hikes - Bob Bridges will continue to lead these hikes. There will be four for the summer season.
  - 9. Group Walks - It was suggested to add some off-site walks next year. Ed Beck will lead these walks, one per month.
  - 10. Summer Book Club - This event is extremely successful and will continue.
  - 11. Pickleball - Freddie Blonshine will coordinate Tuesday/Thursday Pickleball, and the time will change to 10:00 to 12:00. Marino Fernandez will coordinate Wednesday less competitive Pickleball, and Lee Metzger will coordinate Monday lessons. Pickleball has been extremely successful.
  - 12. Moonlight Canoe Trip - This is an extremely successful event and will continue. Bob Bridges will lead this event.
  - 13. Art Classes - This event is successful and will continue.
  - 14. Yoga - These classes were well attended and will continue. Chair Yoga will be added.

15. Exercise for Mature Ladies - This extremely popular event will continue.
16. CPR Lunch and Learn - This class is always full. There will be a class offered for winter residents. We have an on-site Instructor now, Matt Millsaps, our Fire Chief.
17. Blood Drive -The Town will hold an on-site Blood Drive in July or August.
18. New Ideas – It was suggested that the Town sponsor a Cookie Exchange in December with gift donations for the children at Crossnore School.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Bob Bridges reminded the Committee to keep the Art Visionary subcommittee active. Rebecca Ryan is the Chair of that subcommittee.

#### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Freddie Blonshine thanked Rebecca Ryan for all of her hard work on the Charcuterie Classes, and also to thank Stu Ryan for the donation of his hand-crafted Charcuterie Boards for door prizes.

The next meeting will be February 15, 2024.

Faye Brock volunteered to be the Parks and Recreation representative to The Park at Seven Devils Visionary Committee.

Faye Brock moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 and Ed Beck seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Freddie Blonshine  
Parks and Recreation Committee Secretary