

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
June 28, 2012
Minutes

Camp Office
301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Members Present: April Dipollina, Bev Jackson, Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Ginny Hogan, Ron Rasi, Joyce Baker

Others Present: Thomas Daly, Carin Mancini, Roseanna Smith, Charle Smith, Jackson Pierre-Louis, Barbra Domijan, Marian Brown, Ernie Smith

1. Meeting called to order at 10:37 am.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Additions to Agenda
 - a. Security
4. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve made by April, seconded by Bev. All in favor.
5. Correspondence
 - a. None
6. Camp Harkness Fund Report:
 - a. Marian – not official member of CHAC .
 - i. Meeting morning of June 28th. Scott Wolfe designated as treasurer.
 - ii. Last week there was \$1,100 in the account.
 - iii. A letter was sent soliciting funds telling people about the new butterfly garden. This letter was also available at the Open House. The hope is that this letter will result in donations.
 - b. Store start up with campers – Water bottles, bracelets, picture frames, compacts, tee shirts. Set up under tent outside and also on order form. \$7 for water bottle, \$20 for picture frame, \$10 for bracelet, need price on compact. Barbra offered to allow Camp items to be sold in Groton General Store as well as on The Arc NLC's website.
 - c. More grant-writing – Mary is in charge of this and will meet separately to discuss grants for September.
7. Old Business:
 - a. Camp Report – Vicki Severin:
 - i. Camp began this month – Over 3,700 day visitors in June. Week 1 saw campers for Oak Hill and Southbury. This week all camps are up and running.
 1. 248 Resident campers
 - ii. Cabin users: 125, for one week at beginning of June.

- iii. 900 people for special events, 450 people for Open House, 4,900 total visitors this month
 - iv. Cycle for a Cause on June 10th to raise funds for The Arc New London County camperships via the Kelsey Harrington Foundation
 - b. Short article in Waterford Times regarding a donation made to Oak Hill by the TJX Foundation.
 - i. Stan reported that this \$5,000 grant was put toward camperships
 - c. Volunteers: Master gardeners are here – six Master Gardeners come every Wednesday. There are also students from Waterford High School doing community service on the grounds and fitness groups being run by SECADD
 - i. 12 people at open house
 - d. Physical Plant – Ernie Smith:
 - i. Brown Cabin 5 completed
 - 1. Bev offered that she cannot get into the smaller bathroom with her wheelchair due to space constraints. She also suggested that a shelf be put up in the other bathroom to help users utilize the area more comfortably. Suggestion made to have the door swing out, but this could present a problem for those in wheelchairs, as they will have to pull the door closed behind them. Perhaps sliding doors or a bi-fold door?
Possibility was mentioned of turning this into an activity cabin.
 - 2. Closet is gone in cabin, so there is nowhere to store an extra wheelchair now for those who have electric and manual with them. There is the possibility of putting up a place to hang jackets as well as make an outdoor area to store wheelchairs – perhaps a shed or lean-to.
 - 3. Carin Mancini met with Jeff Cyr and expressed some of these concerns. He stated that before we do more, we need to go back to the drawing board and look at extending an extra ten feet.
 - ii. Outdoor Maintenance
 - 1. All picnic tables are uniformly painted green
 - 2. Superdeck is installed, working on finishing touches
 - 3. Bushes planted
 - 4. Tent sites: people putting rocks around and starting fires. Perhaps we need to look into the purchase of combo pit/grills which are wheelchair accessible.
 - iii. Camp Director's Meeting
 - 1. It was reported that once again the summer maintenance crew is remarkable and maintenance in general provides quick and quality service
 - 2. Central Office – there has been communication between Vicki and Maria Foreman. A liaison would like to visit each camp once – not during youth week.
 - iv. Appointments/Reappointments

1. April made contact. Stan spoke with Christine Polio Cooney who makes contact with legislative personnel regarding possible changes and they are hopeful things will move along.
 - a. Legislative Liaison to visit July 23rd. Will visit The Arc & camps

v. Booster Club

1. Letter was accepted and signed for East Lyme address.
2. Received a call from Cliff Kramm June 24th. Deadline for all documents was requested; however, no documents were provided.
3. Stated that they are experiencing a “financial situation”, had to move three times and they did not understand what was needed. Tom referred him to the letter. Again, no documents were provided.
4. Tom to speak with Terry and legal counsel. Cliff did not appear to have read letter and stated he, “Doesn’t understand why the state requires so much documentation.”
5. Purpose of the letter was to determine if services were being provided.
6. Backup Plan:
 - a. Have Department of Agriculture assist in case this hits the papers. Can we evict from a public place?
 - b. Get Betsy Ritter and Andrea Stillman involved – make sure they are aware that we’ve tried to help them live up to their end of the agreement.

vi. Donation Policy

1. April spoke with Karen Zrenda, who does not have the policy. Stan will send what he has. Charle sent something to April. April will work on the policy and bring it to the next meeting.

8. New Business

a. Security

- i. Situation over weekend (while campers were not at camp) – counselor had a few friends visit. The friends left and then returned in the middle of the night. They couldn’t get through so they threw a chair through a window. Waterford Police were called.
- ii. Threatening phone call received a couple days prior to meeting. Oak Hill Camp Administrators arranged for an off-duty officer to stay overnight, which Oak Hill Camp has to pay for.
- iii. Gate needs to be replaced with a longer bar and security needs to be heightened due to the lack of security at Camp Harkness. Trying to sort out how to have Waterford Police patrol area regularly
 1. We do have an agreement with Dan Steward for patrols to be performed. Tom will look into the possibility of extending contract

State has with security companies. Proposed that we need uniformed security every night from 12am-6am.

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: July 26, 2012 at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted,

By Barbra Domijan on behalf of Stan Soby, Chair