

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Camp Harkness Office
301 Great Neck Road
May 23, 2019
Minutes

Present: Stan Soby, Shannon Aiello, April Dipollina, Betsie Danforth, Vicki Severin, MaryAnn Langdon, Bev Jackson

Others Present: Jackie Staller, Cres Secchiaroli, John Massicotte, Luz Taylor, Nick Capozza, Dan Steward

1. Call to Order: 10:45 AM

2. Remembrance of Ron Rasi

- Ron had made contributions to the committee since the early 2000's as part of SCAR, later the DDN (Developmental Disabilities Network)
- He was a long-time supporter of Camp Harkness
- A brick will be purchased and dedicated in his honor

3. Public Comment: None

4. Additions to Agenda: None

5. Approval of Minutes:

April minutes were amended to correct Clean Up date which was April 27, 2019. MaryAnn motioned to accept the amended minutes. Betsie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

6. Correspondence: None

7. Camp Harkness Foundation:

A. Play Group

- April reported that a session is scheduled for June 1, 2019
- Weekly sessions will start on Wednesdays beginning June 26, 2019 from 1-2:30PM
- Dates have been scheduled
- Discussion of reaching middle age participants (13-21 years) at next Foundation meeting – possibly June 1, 2019

B. Event Planning

- April made a to do list for Summer Fest, Zucchini Races
- April found links to share with maintenance to look at for possible ramp configurations
- Exploring diverse crafters to participate

C. Fundraising

- Vicki reported bricks have been ordered
- June 8, 2019 – brick dedication and installation

8. Old Business

A. Camp Report

i. Camp Usage/ Events:

- Vicki gave April report (see attached)

ii. Physical Plant:

- John reported
- Completion of replacing four (4) roofs on cabins
- Today is the start of reconstruction on Sun Shelter
- Kitchen was commercially cleaned; good job
- Exploring pricing for tree work
- Putting in replacement beech trees (2)
- Volunteers from Foxwoods, Day of Caring with United Way – painted and power washed several areas around the Camp
- Bev thanked John and staff for all their hard work maintaining the Camp
- MaryAnn asked if uneven area near Brown Cabins had been addressed
- John responded that root pruning of the tree would kill it – another option is to remove the side walk and reroute campers
- Vicki asked if sunken sidewalk at the entrance of two (2) Green Cabins had started
- John stated that the crew will take care of the problem

iii. Camp Staffing:

- Interviews are underway

iv. Youth Camp:

- No update

v. Other Camp Update:

- Betsie will contact individuals with sails for Sun Shelter at a more opportune time

B. DDS Updates

- Cres reported that the Legislature was still in session
- Opening of 11th Respite Center in Putnam was a month away
- Each Region will have a Behavioral Clinical Manager to go out and work with families in homes
- Cres will present at Yale on some of the Specialized Step-Down Units
- April shared flyers on DDS presentation by Thomas Dailey about Understanding DDS at Camp Harkness on June 13, 2019

C. Advocacy

i. Updates:

- Stan stated that no money was in the planned Budget for rate adjustment issue
- Stan is also watching for the impact of Senate Bill 928 property tax assessment on non-profits
- Invitation to join the Rally on June 30, 2019 from 2-5:00PM – Stan will send information to those who want to attend
- Stan will send quick links for those who want to contact Legislators

ii. Administration:

- Commissioners Office is working on logistics of Governor Lamont's visit

9. New Business: None

10. Adjournment: 11:52 AM

Next Meeting: June 27, 2019 at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary