

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Camp Harkness Office
301 Great Neck Road
July 27, 2017
Minutes

Present: Stan Soby, Bev Jackson, Jackson Pierre-Louis, Ron Rasi, April Dipollina, Thomas Dailey, MaryAnn Langdon, Betsie Danforth, Shannon Aiello, Vicki Severin

Others Present: Carin Mancini, Neil Cobliegh, Chris Pierce, Sharon Liberty, Ashley Wiggins, Samantha Capozza

1. Call to Order: 10:37 AM

2. Public Comments: None

3. Additions to Agenda: None

4. Approval of Minutes:

June minutes were amended:

A. Fund Raisers

- Camperships were awarded with support from Ron's group

B. Play Group

- April reported the group will meet for the second half of Mentoring Training in September

MaryAnn motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Camp Harkness Fund:

A. Fund Raisers

- PayPal donations totaling \$1400 have been received; one of them was for \$1000
- Brick orders are due August 1st
 - Bricks will be promoted during Summer Fest
 - MaryAnn suggested giving applications to campers
- Summer Fest is scheduled for July 29, 2017 – no rain date

B. Play Group

- New parents have been in and out of the group
- People of all ages and disabilities have participated
- July 26th meeting for the Medical Home Program helped patients organize binder of information
- OT/ PT, Music Therapist will be coming to future meeting
- In general, the group is going very well
- The schedule for the fall will be reviewed with Vicki
- Play Group will be donating a basket for the raffle at Summer Fest

7. Old Business

A. Camp Report

i. Camp Usage/ Events – see attached

- Vicki gave June report
- Cabin users: 56
- Special Event participants: 1825

- LEARN Retreat: 125
- Brick Dedication: 40
- Play Group/ Parent Support Group: 14
- 31 Picnics: approximately 1646
- Tent Campers, Residential Campers, Day Visitors brought the total for the month to 7,150
- Volunteers: 18

ii. Physical Plant:

- Chris reported that his staff, Kent and John, were dealing with the following issues:
 - Water issues in parking lot – issue resolved
 - New ice machine
 - Freezer needs new motor
 - “No mow Thursdays” - do special projects
 - Doors on cabins – conversation with Carin
 - Plans to be ahead of projects

B. DDS Updates

- DDS IT, Tyco, Carin and staff to tackle gate issue
- Hopefully it is resolved and gate will be up and running on August 15th
- Thomas reported that the state is operating under Governor’s Executive Orders budget
- This includes cuts in funding, starting with a series of furlough days for employment options and days services
- Stan cited a loss in revenue to programs and costs of coverage in residential supports
- 5-10% cuts in second quarter
- Some emergency/ age out funding is available
- Hiring freeze is in place
- Conversions on hold contingent on budget

C. Future Status of Camp/Closure

- No update
- Number signing online petition is growing
- Committee position letter written by Bev has not been in the newspaper – no response from Hartford Courant
- Connecticut Mirror was suggested as a possible place to submit an article
- April suggested giving the letter to parents in the Play Group to give to their legislators
- Faces of Harkness to have individuals talk about their experiences at camp

D. Advocacy

- Continue to contact legislators

E. Policy: Use of Drones

- No update
- Thomas suggested that Chris’ department make signs for all entrances

8. New Business: None

9. Adjournment: 11:45 AM

Next Meeting: August 24, 2017 at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary