

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Camp Harkness Office
301 Great Neck Road
July 26, 2018
Minutes

Present: Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Ron Rasi, Bev Jackson, Betsie Danforth, April Dipollina, Shannon Aiello, Heather Dierberger, Thomas Dailey, Jackson Pierre Louis, MaryAnn Langdon (tele conference)

Others Present: Sharon Liberty, Carin Mancini, Warren Schilling, John Massicotte, Joe Zinko, Cres Secchiaroli, Peter Mason, Jordan Scheff

- 1. Call to Order:** 10:33 AM
- 2. Welcome Commissioner Scheff, Deputy Commissioner Mason and Cres Secchiaroli, Director of Facilities**
 - Stan welcomed individuals and introductions were made by the committee and other present

A. Remarks

- The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were taking this opportunity to visit and tour Camp Harkness while it was fully operational, campers were at camp, and numerous activities were in progress
- At this time, they were also here to address maintenance issues and discuss procedures to effectively use resources with present constraints of downsizing and budget cuts
- They are trying to balance the needs of the Southeast Region
- April asked about funds regarding housing **Idash**
- The Commissioner responded that some funds had been awarded and they were funding it cost-effectively to support a cluster of individuals
- Deputy Commissioner Mason added that the bulk of monies have been assigned, but there were still some monies available
- April's group hopes to do submit a proposal
- Commissioner Scheff and Deputy Commissioner Mason reported that they enjoyed their visit to Camp Quinnabog – they said it was a beautiful facility and that a new Pavilion had been completed there
- Vicki commented on a need for a Pavilion at Camp Harkness
- The Commissioner thinks it is a good investment; the Camp Quinnabog facility was funded by bond funds
- The possibility of funding for Camp Harkness will be discussed
- Bev shared her concerns about a possible attack at the Camp given our present reality
- The Commissioner expressed concern – the Camp is such an open space
- Stan asked if there was someone to contact with State Police for general guidance
- Further discussion will continue, and Stan will follow thru with establishing contacts to share with the Committee

B. Tour

- Vicki will take Commissioner Scheff and Deputy Commissioner Mason on a tour of Camp Harkness

- 3. Public Comment:** Sharon Liberty, a long-time camper, took the opportunity to thank maintenance staff for their quick response in providing grab bars in Brown Cabins. She was very impressed.
- 4. Additions to Agenda:** None

5. Approval of Minutes:

Bev motioned to accept the June 26, 2018 minutes. April seconded the motion. All were in favor. Ron and April abstained. The minutes were approved.

6. Correspondence: None

7. Camp Harkness Fund:

A. Tax Fund Status

- The accountant is reviewing paperwork
- Working on 503C status

B. Play Group

- Speakers were rescheduled to have as many parents present as possible
- Attendance will increase when summer school ends

C. Creative Housing Group

- Numerous providers attended
- Parents had the opportunity to listen to providers and share their needs

D. Brick Events

- Continue to take orders for Bricks

8. Old Business

A. Camp Report

i. Physical Plant:

- Maintenance Support Structure:
 - John Warren reported that they have moved to a work order system
 - Last month they received 66 orders
 - 12 remain open, in process, or waiting for parts
 - Joe Zinko is overseeing the region – he is scheduled to be on site at Camp Harkness for 2 days and is working from Meriden
- Activity
 - Oak Hill sewage line needed to be dug up
 - DOT was on site trimming and taking down dead trees
 - Cres Secchiaroli shared information on how the computer system tracks work orders and shows volume/ where resources are needed
 - After camp season is completed, they will need to meet to discuss approval to hire an office assistant to help Vicki coordinate Camp operation

ii. Camp Security:

- Stan will identify resources and make contacts Maintenance Support Structure:

iii. Internet Service:

- Vicki reported that the system is in good working order

iv. Camp Usage/ Events:

- Carin gave June report – see attached

B. DDS Updates

- Thomas reported ongoing conversions

C. Advocacy

- Stan shared information about the Connecticut Post sponsored Debates of Primary Candidates – it will be live streamed
- Stan's comments to staff: "To Advocate, you need to be informed and engaged."
- April will attend the October 11, 2018 Candidates' Forum in Cromwell. She will send information and a flyer by email
- MaryAnn is working on the plastic straw ban issue
- MaryAnn met candidate Ned Lamont - she pursued him to have a conversation

8. New Business:

Heather Dierberger received her approval June 27, 2018. The Committee welcomed her as a new parent representative member.

9. Adjournment: 11:47 AM

Next Meeting: August 23, 2018 at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary