

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9609464276>**  
**Meeting ID: 9609464276**  
**One Tap Mobile +19294362866,,96094664276#US(New York)**  
**May 28, 2020**  
**Minutes**

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

**Others Present:** AnnMarie Wellman, Patricia West, Cres Secchiaroli, John Massicotte, Jackie Staller, Marion Brown

**1. Call to Order:** 10:36 AM

**2. Public Comment:** None

**3. Additions to Agenda:** None

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes were amended to clarify music therapist helped Vicki and April plan the music activity. MaryAnn motioned to approve minutes. April seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. MaryAnn abstained.

**5. Correspondence:** None

**6. Camp Harkness Foundation:**

**A. Play Group**

- April reported that the Play Group met twice in May
- On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 families registered but only 3 attended the music therapist's online Zoom activity – trivia questions and music
- Families expressed that they would like to have the activities on weekends
- On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 5 families registered for another Zoom activity with a music therapist and a scavenger hunt – only one family attended
- The music therapist was wonderful and engaging for the kids
- There were many questions regarding Camp opening – staff responded that the Camp was still following DDS guidelines for Covid-19

**B. Fundraising**

- Fundraising activities have been put on hold

**C. Sun Shelter**

- Unable to connect with the 2<sup>nd</sup> company that came last week to give a quote
- MaryAnn will follow-up

## 7. Old Business

### A. Camp Report

#### i. Physical Plant:

- John reported
- Working on a 4-Phase re-opening of the Camp
- Maintaining the grounds and attempting to hire a summer crew
- People are violating the Closed signs
- There was a break-in at the Bath House but no damage
- Maintainer (general trades worker) was able to manage the crowds on the grounds so far
- Pavilion at the beach has been repaired
- Sea wall has been repaired with stones

#### ii. Camp Usage/Events:

- Vicki gave the April report (see attached)
- Camp remains closed
- Many phone inquiries and emails have been received wondering when Camp will reopen
- All scheduled events have been cancelled so far

### B. DDS Updates

- Cres reported that staff will start on June 5<sup>th</sup>
- Staffing has been prioritized for the booth, grounds, patrol, life-guard and maintenance
- He is working with Vicki on developing a 3-Phase reopening plan and once they have a draft, the plan will be reviewed:
- Phase 1: walk-thru the grounds, limit of 50 people, open from 9-4PM,
- Phase 2: allow picnicking of small groups of 5 household members
- Phase 3: beach opening
- John stressed that the biggest concern is maintenance of the restroom, safety and other safe-guards near the water
- Once the plan is finalized it will be shared with the group
- Tentative dates will be shared when determined
- Entire park will not be open
- Areas restricted where people live full time at Camp
- Access will be granted to pass holders only
- John suggested updating the entrance signage
- Pamphlets should be distributed at the gate to pass holders to obtain email information in order to provide them with current rules
- Cres reported that the Commissioner has developed a Reopening Committee with sub-committees – they are being very cautious due to the population that the camp serves
- The focus of the committee is on group home visits with families and on reopening Day Programs
- Cres also shared a story of appreciation for those workers in the system who have stepped up to meet the needs of individuals – those willing to redefine their positions and work in needed areas
- The Legislature is not in session and the special session in June uncertain
- There were no mid-term adjustments to budgets

### C. Advocacy

- It is important to contact Legislative representative with regard to reopening of Camp

## **8. New Business: None**

### **A. The Day Newspaper Questions**

- Jackie received communication from The Day newspaper with questions regarding the Camp being open to the general public
- Cres responded that all questions and communications should go through DDS Media
- Individuals can go to the DDS website regarding protocols for the Camp
- Bev questioned access regarding the 4 Camps (Camp Oakdale, the Arc, Southbury and Sunrise)
- Vicki responded that she will contact the camps to determine when they will be able to assume activities

### **B. Pass Holder Concern with Camp Opening**

- Aisling Caffrey is a concerned parent who has been a pass holder for years
- She had communicated with Vicki her concerns regarding the opening of the Camp
- She wanted to share the perspective of families that have used the Camp for years – she conveyed her concerns and wanted to offer alternatives for Camp use

## **9. Adjournment: 12:07PM**

**Next Meeting:** June 25, 2020 - TBD

**Respectfully submitted by:** Shannon Aiello, Secretary