

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9609464276>
Meeting ID: 9609464276
One Tap Mobile +19294362866,,96094664276#US(New York)
March 25, 2021
Minutes

Present: Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Shannon Aiello, Heather Dierberger, Betsy Danforth, MaryAnn Langton, Bev Jackson, Jackson Pierre-Louis

Others Present: John Massicotte, Patricia West

1. Call to Order: 10:40 AM

2. Public Comment: None

3. Additions to Agenda: Betsy asked about the status of kids at Camp this summer.

4. Approval of Minutes:

The February minutes were amended to correct next meeting date from March 26th to March 25th. MaryAnn motioned to approve minutes as amended. Betsy seconded the motion. Minutes were approved. Jackson abstained.

5. Correspondence:

Vicki received an email from a parent who also contacted the Governor regarding opening of the public rest rooms.

6. Camp Harkness Foundation:

A. Play Group

- Play Group is ongoing on Zoom; will start in person in the summer
- Drum Circle planned for April 17th and April 23rd

B. Fundraising

- Festive 5K Run/Walk that was cancelled last Fall is rescheduled for May 8th
- Flyers will be sent out
- Deposit of check \$560 from Go-Fund Me campaign setup by Heather

7. Old Business

A. Seaweed Access

- John reported no update from Central Office
- Suggested that the interested person contact Warren Schilling at Central Office

B. Camp Report

i. Physical Plant:

- John reported status quo
- Worker will return next week after medical leave
- Paving roads with help of DOT
- Summer hiring is moving forward

ii. Camp Usage/Events:

- Vicki gave February report (see attached)
- 16 participants for Family Support Group Zoom meeting
- Walking groups were from the Arc, Lighthouse, and Roger's House
- 6 volunteers
- Camp Director's meeting
- Summer Staff meeting with Human Resources

iii. Reopening:

- Possible 200 people in the Park
- Reservations for tables to start May 24th
- Tent sites undetermined
- Overnight camp – a proposal needs to be presented to the Governor
- Vicki announced that she will retire at the end of May – Heather stated that she wished she could make a motion to delay Vicki's retirement
- Other members expressed their sentiments on what a great job Vicki has done for the Camp in the last 18 years that she has been there

C. DDS Updates:

- Vaccines moving forward
- Staff has reached out for guidance to Camp reopening
- Jackson reported on presentations regarding April Abuse Prevention Month
 - Encourage everyone to check out and promote efforts
 - Empower people with IDD
 - Presented an impact statement highlighting the issues and partnering with providers and advocates
 - Distributing pins #It's Not OK CT

D. Advocacy

- Stan to speak at Legislative hearings regarding Federal relief monies for Medicaid providers
- These monies are needed to cover response calls we have all had

8. New Business

A. Bob Lowdes:

- Vicki commented on the passing of Oak Hill long-time camp director Bob (Red) Lowdes
- He started as team counselor and remained for years
- Many of his family members participated in programs at Camp
- Red was PE teacher, swim coach and well-known for driving the Camp train
- Stan stated that Red worked from early morning to late evening to make things look easy
- A planned event to honor him will be on June 26th

B. Sun Shelter Sails:

- Betsy asked about the donated sails
- She wondered they could possibly be set up and used this summer
- John had left the meeting before this question – Vicki will contact John and follow-up on request

C. Play Group in Summer:

- Betsy asked if Play Group would continue through the summer
- She expressed her concern with getting individuals back in Camp
- Vicki referred to previously mentioned dates and a change to Wednesday afternoons in the summer for Play Group activities

D. May Advisory Meeting:

- It is possible that the May Advisory meeting could be held outdoors with social distancing

9. Adjournment: 11:46 PM

Next Meeting: April 21, 2021 by Zoom meeting

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary