

Henniker Community Center Activities Committee
Minutes of January 5, 2009 Meeting

Members Present: Shawna Mitchell, Mindy Matheson, Shannon Camara, Jaime Weston, Jennifer Gendreau, and MaryEllen Schule

Guests: Nicole Gage, Greg Gage, Nicole Girardet

Shawna Mitchell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Take Picture For Annual Report: Shawna decided to take picture of members at end of meeting to introduce guests.
2. Review Minutes of Last Meeting: Section 3-d where it was put “MaryEllen explained the original idea of this age group that 7th & 8th graders would like the fact that they have a place to go two nights, but were parents aware that one night is close door while the other is open door.” MaryEllen clarified this point: that the idea was not to give them two nights. Initially wanted to have 7th-12th graders have access to the Teen Center as Open Door, but found that parents of 7th & 8th graders were not as comfortable with the “open door” concept. So a separate night for only 7th & 8th graders as Close Door was available. Shawna motioned to accept with this correction. Shannon seconded this motion.
3. Discuss Plans for Any New Events:
 - a) Greg and Nicole Gage introduced an idea of an “Open Mic Night” to encourage musicians to gather. Where of all levels of talent can be encouraged to perform. Intended to be family oriented, spread thru word of mouth and school music programs.
 - i) Greg continued with the idea that one weekend per month would be designated for open mic night, possibly followed by open jam. Musicians recruited would require music to be “family appropriate”, they have equipment that may be shared, and the event would be open to public to support our own talented community. Nicole suggested coffee and snacks could be offered and requested to encourage the town to have the piano tuned. MaryEllen suggested a possible contact to handle that.
 - ii) Jaime pointed out that this would be an opportunity for an outlet for student musicians to gather.
 - iii) Shawna inquired about scheduling. Their suggestion of a first or second Saturday of a month where they would be available to manage the event.
 - iv) MaryEllen proposed that a motion be made to accept this event. Shannon motioned to accept. Jaime seconded this motion. “Open Mic Night” will be scheduled the third Saturday of the month for a 6-month trial (February thru July). Shawna pointed out that our last committee meeting is June 1st for this year. MaryEllen suggested that may need to be changed pending the

- activities coordinated for upstairs.
- b) Jennifer followed-up with the idea for a playgroup concept for parents to bring young children to on Saturdays. But after discussion with Nicole Girardet, there is also a for need an extension during the week. Nicole clarified that she is looking for a location to host a weekday play-date for an alternate to having a group at a house. She has spoken with other parents that are interested in a “meeting place” where their own items would be brought to share.
 - i) MaryEllen explained about liability of safety for the children. Discussion about the intension of this group and how the liability is impacted was instructive. MaryEllen suggested to ask Peter Flynn to check with Town contacts about liability coverage for such event.
 - ii) Jennifer will follow-up with Peter and continue research to see how other towns coordinate a similar playgroup opportunity. Findings will be presented at next meeting.
 - c) MaryEllen suggested an adult & child exercise class on weekends or an over 55 exercise group arranged.
 - d) Shannon asked about looking into Kathy Lowe’s program to schedule. Shawna suggested that Shannon contact Kathy for pricing and scheduling for next meeting.
 - e) Jaime requested that we plan on rescheduling the Babysitters Connection.
 - i) Jennifer proposed January 31st as available on the calendar.
 - ii) Shannon will contact schools so parents will need to know of this new date. E-mail distribution tool seemed to work best at getting the word out about this event.
 - f) Jaime also suggested a Winter Festival or Family Movie Night. Mindy added that NEC had a successful Movie Night at one time. MaryEllen added that a projector is available. Shawna added that an inventory of upstairs supplies needs to be done.
 - i) The committee agreed on a Dinner and a Movie Night theme and discussed logistics for organizing such an event. MaryEllen suggested families bring a blanket to sit on and Jennifer suggested a “picnic” style event.
 - ii) The first Saturday of a month was suggested for “pizza and a movie”, or a “picnic and a movie” event. Logistics were discussed. With an unknown number of attendees, that providing the meal may not be the best choice. To bring a blanket and dinner will be the recommended course.
 - iii) Movie suggestions were to be G or PG rated to keep to family friendly theme, such as; Incredibles, Cars, Bedknobs & Broomsticks, Parent Trap. The decision for a “Picnic and a Movie” Night would be scheduled on February 7th featuring the movie Annie was unanimous. This event will be organized by Shannon, Jaime, and Mindy.

4. Other Business:

- a) Jennifer mentioned that web-site’s: “Regularly Scheduled Meetings” link needs to be updated with current schedule. Jennifer will check with Nicole

- Gage for who's responsible for information on this web-page.
- b) MaryEllen provided Nicole Girardet a little overview of the committee to gain her interest in joining.
 - c) Jennifer requested a plan for going forward to how we were going to proceed with teen registrations, updating parents of age group change of Saturday nights, and collecting contacts other than via sign-in sheet.
 - i. MaryEllen agreed with Mike McManus' point at the last meeting of lack of contacts and explained that the sign-in sheet was meant more for grant purposes than for a contact purpose.
 - ii. Shawna will add in the Outlook the Teen Night age group change.
 - iii. MaryEllen suggested that other centers use ID cards. However, Shawna's experience suggested that if we use ID cards, they should be kept at the center. Jennifer added that ID cards would be a good tool to keep track of those that have turned in Registration Forms.
 - iv. Concentration of Registration Forms from 7th & 8th graders will be the focus, due to the closed door requiring them to be picked up by a certain time and having approved contacts for when it would be required.
 - v. Jennifer will draft a plan to administer and keep track of ID cards.

5. Adjourn:

- a) The committee's group picture was taken.
- b) At 8:30pm, Shawna motioned to adjourn. Jennifer seconded this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gendreau
Committee Member