

Village committee backs creating summer camp as cooperative summer venture with Cedarburg, Port

A summer program that would give area boys and girls a chance to participate in track and field is expected to join the list of recreation activities offered by the Village of Grafton.

The Parks and Recreation Board last week recommended that a youth track club be offered as a six-week program at Grafton High School.

Plans call for boys and girls, ages 7 to 14, to meet for training from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 21 through July 29. No sessions would be held July 5, 6 and 8.

Through a cooperative effort between three communities, residents of the Village of Grafton and cities of Cedarburg and Port Washington would pay \$30 to participate and nonresidents would pay \$50.

Grafton High School track coach Kevin Kriegel, who is expected to serve as the club director, said the program would provide instruction in distance, sprint, hurdle and relay events as well as jumps and throws.

In addition, participants would be taught nutrition, strength training and stretching as part of the village's wellness initiative, officials said.

"I'm pretty excited about it. I ran a similar program in Wauwatosa for six years, and it was very successful," Kriegel said. "It's a way to get kids involved in track and field, which is something a lot of them wouldn't otherwise try."

Kriegel said the program is also designed to encourage more students to participate in track and field at Grafton High School.

Karin Sevener, the village's senior activities director and a recreation supervisor who is helping organize the program, said the plan is to have at least 45 youths register the first year. That total includes 20 youths from Grafton and 10 each from Cedarburg and Port Washington.

A projected \$1,250 in revenue would more than cover the anticipated cost of

Youth track training may join rec programs

Written by Steve Ostermann
Wednesday, 24 February 2010 18:18

\$1,015 to run the program, Sevener said.

The expenses include pay for the program director and three aides. Nonpaid adult volunteers are also expected to participate.

The Grafton High School track, field and equipment would be used for the program at no cost, Sevener said.

Sevener said plans call for the Cedarburg and Port recreation departments to keep \$10 from each registration they handle. Based on participation numbers, the fees could be adjusted for subsequent years, she added.

“We estimated there would be at least 45 kids, but I hope we can get even more,” she said. “Having two other communities involved with Grafton should really help attract more participants.”

Sevener, a former standout runner at Port Washington High School and in college, has overseen the village’s participation in the Hershey Track and Field program as a May event the past four years. That event — which gives boys and girls a chance to compete at local, regional and national levels — had about 80 registrants last year, she said.

In addition to unanimously recommending approval of the program, the Parks and Recreation Board recommended a lower pay rate for Kriegel, who was expected to receive \$17.53 per hour, according to a feasibility report. Board members expressed concern that the director’s pay be consistent with that given to coaches in other village recreation programs.

Kriegel said Tuesday he hadn’t decided if an alternate pay rate would be an acceptable but was willing to discuss it with village officials.

Both recommendations are scheduled to be considered by the Village Board at its Monday, March 1, meeting.