

MINUTES

Recreation Commission Meeting 4/10/17

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:10 in the Champagne Meeting Room at Carby Street

Recreation Commission Attendees: Joyce Cannon, Elizabeth Phillips, Lynn Connors, Ann Delaney, Shelia Moylan, and Bob Phillips

Recreation Attendees: Nicole Banks, Beth Roper

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes – March 16, 2017
- b. Distributed Monthly Report for March 2017
Motion to accept Consent agenda made by Elizabeth Phillips, seconded by Ann Delaney; passed unanimously.

Commission Member reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

Director/Staff Report:

2016 Town Report - Paul Aries wrote and submitted the Recreation Commission report for the Town's Annual Report, excellent job.

Business Manager Report, Beth Roper

Do we try to be the one-stop-shop for school vacation week programs? How can we be the place that parents go for childcare during other vacation weeks? The plan would be to get feedback from summer program families to see if they would utilize the year-round programs.

Resident/non-resident numbers for utilization of programs. The percentage of non-resident registration is low and the department depends upon these registrations in order to run programs year round. It has been decided not to give priority to residents for signing up, but priority will be given to resident families on the waitlist.

Discussion about making incremental cost increases in summer programming. Beth reports that between now and planning for March into Summer, plan is to research the costs of local programming to see what would constitute a reasonable cost increase.

The cost of swim programs and memberships will likely increase as well, as salary costs have grown recently and fees at the pool have not seen any increase for many years.

Financial Aid Policy Review: Community Chest pays first and then Recreation subsidizes the rest. Recreation confirms applicant eligibility for the free lunch program as a guideline but this is not consistently used in the review process. Currently, if someone requests any financial assistance, they receive some. A discussion will follow about implementing more structure to the financial aid assessment process.

The Business Manager oversees the process and there are few parameters. All requests are granted. Requests must come from Westwood residents. Beth has communicated with Westwood's Youth and Family Services office regarding the process. Suggested that we have an option for families to donate to a scholarship fund and then that would be given to Community Chest and let them distribute the funds. Of a total \$17,748 in scholarships awarded in 2016, swim lessons constituted 4%, camp programs 76%, and 20% were non-camp summer programs.

Program/Event Updates –

Program Update: Summer camp is full and playground is close to capacity. We are exploring options to expand playground.

Event Update

Fishing Derby – Saturday, May 13 from 7-11 am, volunteers needed.

Westwood Little League Parade - April 29th. Recreation Department will be manning a table at the Morrison Field site.

Fields & Facilities -

Spring field schedules-

Review of groups and field allocations. Reminder regarding field conditions for closure -if there is standing water, the group cannot be on the field.

Courts -

Morrison basket court crack repair needs to be repaired. A quote will be sought out to repair immediately even though we were waiting until after Town Meeting to resurface.

Morrison design option 1 including tennis court rebuild is all set with the MBTA easement access needs. Did clarify that the MBTA does not need the area were the tennis court would be located. We did vote against this option.

Playgrounds -

June Street Playground – funding update \$15,000 from Roche Bros donation (first discussed donation amount)

Playground inspections scheduled for April 11th. Spraying will be done on April 15th and Nicole will check on the date for the spray schedule for Morrison Field.

Softball sign language: Bob Phillips recommendation was that cost of the sign did not legitimate the need for “sponsor.” Maybe the Softball League and Recreation Department would be “sponsored names” on the sign. A vote was taken to support the sign but not the sponsor’s name.

Other Business:

Next Meeting: May 15, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Carby Street.

Motion to Adjourn: Elizabeth Phillips motioned to adjourn at 8:25 pm, seconded by Bob Phillips, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connors