

MINUTES

Recreation Commission Meeting 5/16/16

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM at Westwood Public Library.

Recreation Commission attendees: Joyce Cannon, Ann Delaney, Mitch Katzman, Paul Aries, Lynn Connors, Elizabeth Phillips. Absent: Bob Phillips, Dave Reilly, Sheila Moylan.

Recreation staff attendees: Nicole Banks

Consent Agenda: A motion to approve the Consent Agenda including the meeting minutes of April 25, 2016 was made by Ann Delaney, seconded by Joyce Cannon. Passed unanimously.

Commission Member Reports:

Ann Delaney addressed the Comprehensive Master Planning Group, of which she is a member, reporting they have not had any meetings this year. Nicole commented that this group schedule has been postponed as the Community and Economic Development office has been restructured and is going to be hiring additional staff. The prioritized focus for the current staff has been to create the new Islington Center Task Force which has started meeting monthly and Nicole Banks is the recreation representative for this group.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Conflict of Interest Policy: Paul Aries went to the Massachusetts Commission of Ethics and was given the advice to develop a policy for the commission when there appears to be a possible conflict of interest present. Discussion followed the reading of the DRAFT policy to address a possible conflict of interest. The responsibility would be placed on the individual member to bring the specific parameters of the situation to the MA Ethics Commission to ask for limits or specifics of their involvement in an agenda item. Recommendation was brought forward to read and review the DRAFT POLICY and prepare discussion for a vote at the next meeting. Questions were raised that need to be clarified: Who would be privileged to see the written opinion? Who would be responsible for storing the written opinion? Is this policy to be voted into the by-laws? Paul Aries will seek advice from the Town Clerk, Dottie Powers. It was also suggested to add the contact information for the MA Ethics Commission to make it easier for members to comply.

Report of the Director:

Summer brochure is out and the program survey is included.

Recreation Event Updates

Deerfield Grand Opening_– great collaboration with WLL Parade and highlighting WYS scrimmage. WestCAT video clip is available.

Fishing Derby – thanks to all that made this event successful. WestCAT video clip is available.

Westwood Day/ September 24th, 2016– June meeting will have staff planning updates. We hope to have an answer on the inclement weather policy. We would like to start the WWD updates at 6pm (try to get the library), possible date of June 23rd.

We need help from you recruiting adult volunteers. TO-DO FOR THE JUNE MEETING: Make a list of organizations/groups and contacts you have a connection to. Bring a list of groups that you are involved with in Westwood and help make the connections.

Field Updates

Westwood Lodge - The current use agreement expires June 30, 2016 and is set to automatically renew for an additional 3 year period. This agreement has been a great benefit to the town and the Recreation Department will review the update and agreement terms with Recreation Commission, Department of Public Works, Police Department, Town Counsel, Town Administrator and Westwood Lodge executive officer. At this time continuation of the use agreement is recommended.

Morrison Park – Fire Station construction update. Electricity and control box relocation went well.

Softball field safety plan recommended for continued use by adult softball submitted to PBC for review. Retaining wall extends into the field, so a 40' safety net to be installed. Mid-June for a delivery date and installation to follow that. A chain link 20-24' fence to be installed to prevent contact with the retaining wall. A May17 meeting is scheduled to discuss the chain fence. Adult softball season has begun already, so speed of completion is a priority. Fran Curran is the coordinator for the adult softball league.

Playground Update:

Pheasant Hill Park and Playground (working with Sheila Moylan.) Design proposals collected and fundraising goal of \$30,000 established. Want to have in place for inclusive access pathway.

School Street Playground - Maintenance items reviewed with DPW and playground installation company. Working with DPW and the installation company will share this work. Some warranty repair review.

Tot Lot - Reviewing options for replacement of benches, following removal of old benches. Would like to get two or three benches. Proposal to the Lions Club.

WHS Tennis Courts - A major crack has developed and it has grown where people can actually step in. This court is closed. Another crack is present. It is being discussed who is responsible financially. A request for shared funding is being proposed and discussed. Lights and resurfacing (Capital request was made) \$160,000 cost figure for lighting changes and resurfacing. Possible LED lighting.

Pool Updates:

Chemical Control Unit: There have been communication problems so the unit that was installed will be replaced.

UV Filtration System: Installation is scheduled.

Christian's Law - The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is currently in the process of finalizing new regulations 105 CMR 432.000 "Minimum Requirements for Personal Flotation Devices for Minor Children at Municipal and Recreational Programs or Camps" to implement requirements in the law to have a system in place for having Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) available to non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers at municipal and recreational programs and camps. We have implemented this regulation in our summer camp field trip procedures utilizing the Type 2 near shore style flotation device. We are currently researching the need to switch to Type 3 flotation aid vest style flotation devices. Both are coast guard approved and meet the requirement of Christian's Law. We will also be updating our fit test and swim test log sheet for this year's camp program. Note: No trips to open water are planned for this summer.

Tennis Court Public Forum - maybe scheduled for July / August (TBD.) We need to get greater number of groups represented to be able to hear about public interest and opinion on options.

Nahatan Street Fields Proposal- SEE ATTACHED map. Discussion of field placement and assessing the field needs in town with input from sport groups. Need to consider moving forward with request for design funding.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2016 at 6PM at Westwood Public Library (tentative.) No July meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM made by Elizabeth Phillips, seconded by Joyce Cannon. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connors