

# MINUTES

## Recreation Commission Meeting

### November 18, 2019

**Recreation Commission members present:** Elizabeth Phillips, Paul Tucceri, Bob Phillips, Ann Delaney, Lynn Connors, Joyce Cannon, Mitch Katzman, Sheila Moylan

**Recreation Staff members present:** Nicole Banks, Rich Adams

**Call to Order:** at 7:04 pm by Ann Delaney

#### **Public Comment:**

Nicole Banks addressed the community members on how to give public comment. She shared that they would have an opportunity to share their opinions and requests and that those comments would be considered by the commission in any recommendations moving forward.

- *Christy Harrison* - Treasurer of the Westwood Track Club: 108 Locust Dr. "sent a letter to Nicole Banks" regarding Westwood Track Club, "was disheartened to not be put on the agenda for tonight." WTC formed in 2011 to teach about the sport, support the runners, all funds will be donated to the track. 304 participants, employ 42 high school students, 5 scholarships are given. 44 out of 304 are from out of town. Fee costs quoted by Track Club were \$1600 in the past and it would cost \$7200 if these changes were put in place.
- *Cathy Herndon* from Cherry Street. Her 2 kids have been in the track club since the beginning. One child now coaches and one child still runs. They met other kids and Kathy walked the track and met other moms. She stated that it was an opportunity to learn life skills for Westwood youth. They are committed to keeping kids active. A rise in the fees will force them to cut their staff by 2/3rds. The programs help students age 3 to up to students now working as a coach as a junior in college. "Please do not enforce the fee so others will have the same opportunity."
- *Nigel* from Westwood. "A fantastic program that has them away from their computers and makes it worth it. It is a big deal to have the high school kids coming back in a leadership role."
- *John Antonucci*, Tamarack Road. Here to support the leaders of this program. They have run this program for the last nine summers. "Please reverse this decision to increase the fee and it needs to be revisited." "It merits a reconsideration on this decision. Come up with a solution that keeps kids running." The board has the ability to consider on individual case and create an exemption for a group. The board should waive the field policy fees for this group.
- *Laura Barbieri*, from the Maze. Moved here with 3 children and one child was employed while another was being trained from the Westwood Track Club. She shared the idea that some families could help others afford the fees.
- *Jim* from Westwood, his children were ex-coaches and his children went through the programs. He would like the fees reconsidered.

- *Jenn Teahan*, Pond Street, President of Westwood Track Team, Requests to be recognized as a level one. She has coached 42 consecutive seasons summer track. Is a non-profit status. 2011-2018 as a recognized youth program, and due to the fact that they allow residents, and pay coaches. "I am here to understand." "I know that I love Westwood and do not want to fire 42 coaches and ask parents to volunteer?" "We ask for transparency." "Please let us run as we are."
- *Karen Murphy*, from Westwood. "I would never stand up and speak at a meeting." "I am Jenn's mom and I have 3 children that all competed when they were ages 3, 4, and 7." I have heard many times from people on the track. "This is the best thing that I have ever experienced." "They accept everyone."
- *Rich Wade*, Marjorie Lane. I have kids that have gone through this program and now as a coach. This program is truly inspiring. I urge the board to seriously reconsider the fee schedule.
- *Dave Abdou* from Westwood Over 30 Softball League which is 74% Westwood residents. I am hoping that something can be changed so we will not be charged \$13,500 if we have to pay the new fees.
- *Julia Willard*. Just became a part of the program and two girls were coaches and would be sad for it to go away if the fees were changed. It is a joyful and happy way to spend a summer.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

- **Approval of the Minutes-** October 21, 2019, Paul Tucerri motioned to approve the minutes, Mitch Katzman seconded. All approved.
- **Monthly Report-** October - Nicole and Rich reported on the projects, the pool HVAC project was on hold while waiting to have a structural beam replaced. HVAC bid is out and the responses are due back by the 11-21-19. This work will be done this summer. The field lighting project: a study is being done for the cost of the lighting of Thurston of the upper and lower fields. This still is being considered as an answer to the field needs. If we are to move forward with it, it would have to be approved by the Select Board and be presented at Spring Town Meeting. Nicole and Rich are meeting with the Westwood Youth Soccer group tomorrow night. Bob Phillips brought up the fact that additional maintenance will be needed and the DPW will need to be involved in that issue.

#### **Commission Member reports:**

- Comprehensive Master Plan reviewed on November 5<sup>th</sup> planning board meeting. Ann attended for the Recreation and Open Space section. It was commented on that the survey was only of 800 residents. Ann addressed the need for a Community Recreation Center.

**Director Staff Reports-** Capital project discussion - Nicole Banks highlighted the 2021 projects proposed.

- Recreation Storage - ICC building is scheduled to be rebuilt, but we will not be receiving the space that we have now, so there is a need for a central storage location for the equipment. It is recommended to add on a bay on the green garage at the high school. The pool lobby is now air-conditioned so it would be available for programming.
- Pool Deck Surfacing Replacement: Aquatics submitted to replace the pool deck tile that is at end of life. A patch was done a number of years ago. Tile is recommended for the surface material.
- Pool Drainage & Refurbishment, also submitted by aquatics, recommends draining the pool to change out the water, and while it is empty it would allow maintenance work to be done. Some depth markers would be done added. It is a multi-step project.
- Sheehan Tennis Court Repurposing: this was presented last year and got put on hold due to the school building and decisions to be still made for the purpose of the school building going forward. The school building decision is still pending but it is desired that move forward once the decision is made.
- Thurston Field Lighting: will be discussed tomorrow night at the Select Board meeting. A total of 8 poles are proposed. The Recreation staff members will share the project specifics when they receive them, during the next week. Paul Tucceri would like to hear about the DPW's thoughts on the condition of the field and the costs of the preservation of the field if it is going to be used. This should be a part of the DPW operating budget to maintain the field going forward. Ann Delaney proposed that we put this discussion to the next meeting in December.

Continued discussion regarding the comments from public comment tonight. Also discussion regarding the numbers from the softball league of \$13,000 as a potential fee.

“What other organizations could be labeled as *“Westwood Youth Sports”* by their definition to be able to compare to other groups that would also meet these standards in the Recreation Programming?”

The sub-committee will meet to discuss options and will bring the findings to a future meeting. Discussions are not to happen outside of the committees.

Next meeting - December 16, 2019

Moved by Shelia Moylan seconded by Paul Tucceri, to adjourn the recreation Commission meeting of November 18, 2019, at 9:07 pm.

Submitted by Lynn Connors