

MINUTES
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2020

Recreation Commission Members present: Ann Delaney, Joyce Cannon, Shelia Moylan, Mitch Katzman, Lynn Connors and Bob Phillip via phone

Recreation Staff Members present: Nicole Banks, Rich Adams

Call to order: at 7:10 pm by Ann Delaney

Public Comment: none

Consent Agenda:

- a) Approval of Minutes: Moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2019, by Joyce Cannon, seconded by Sheila Moylan.
- b) Monthly Report: Nicole Banks highlighted the NYE Fireworks event, with thanks to Roche Bros. for continued sponsorship. Nicole also reported on the pool. The pool was closed today as a chlorinator pump went out yesterday. Fortunately, Sue Perry had identified the failing pump and ordered the replacement which is onsite. We anticipate the installation tomorrow. Rich Adams provided an update on the status of the pool HVAC system replacement project. The previous bid was closed and a new bid was advertised which required the company producing the unit to have 10 years of service history. A contractor has been selected and the project engineer is reviewing the company and product qualifications. The new unit will be installed in June or late August depending on the lead time to order the unit.

Commission Member reports: none

Comprehensive Plan Update:

- a) Abby McCabe, Town Planner and Comprehensive Plan Committee members Steve Olanoff, Charlie Donahue and Jack Wiggin attended. They reported that there are nine subcommittees and are here seeking further input for the Open Space and Recreation Plan section and to ask for support on final edits. Then they will return to the Planning board within a month to present these update. Charlie Donahue highlighted that a key recommendation in the section is to recommend that the Town study the adoption of the CPA as a potential funding source for open space and outdoor recreation. The Recreation Commission reviewed the draft section presented and recommended the following changes:
 - a. Consider renumbering going forward as OR 1-6, OS 1-5 and R 1-12. Recommend combining #14-15 under Recreation and combine #17 and 19 under Recreation. Also, it was recommended that the wording in R19 be changed to add the word "adult" in addition to seniors.

Any additional changes or recommendations can be submitted to Abby McCabe and the committee asked for a letter of support from the Recreation Commission once the final chapter write up is completed.

Director/Staff Monthly report:

a) FY 2021 Budget Review: The Recreation general fund proposed operating budget was presented for Recreation Commission review and approval. This is the 2nd year that no increase is proposed. The overall budget request is decreased due to salary changes with several new staff this year. The Aquatic Specialist salary may be included in this budget, if that change is made the full reimbursement from the revolving fund would be increased to offset the salary amount.

a. Moved to approve the FY21 budget by Sheila Moylan, seconded by Mitch Katzman. Passed unanimously.

The next step in the budget process will be the FinCom meetings to review the general fund, revolving fund and recreation capital projects.

b) The Select Board meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2020. The field development project options will be presented including Thurston Middle School field lights and First Parish land multipurpose field development.

c) Westwood Day date is set for Saturday, September 26, 2020. This year it will not include a home football game or fireworks display to the EEE threat. Additionally, all event setup will be planned for daylight hours. Bob Phillips suggested that we start with the date selection and then have the football games scheduled around the event.

d) Fields/Facilities update

a. Thurston Middle School field lighting design and cost estimate was presented and reviewed. This project provides athletic field lighting for 2 full size 11v11 multipurpose grass fields. The field dimensions would remain the same as the current field space. The \$750,000 was very close to what was proposed in the capital budget last year. Night time play time was in demand at that time. The lights have a 20' buffer from the field lines (note S6 pole is a little closer due to wetlands but the light will be on the other side of the existing fence.) There has been a request made to the DPW to estimate the additional cost of the field maintenance due to the additional field use with more time available. A secondary issue is that there is a natural gas line that runs under the field, there is an easement in place in case repairs are needed. Recently, there has been additional discussion from youth sports about the need for artificial turf and this is their current priority over lights. This would bring preseason time as well as inclement weather playtime. If we were to change to artificial turf in the future, the town would have to cover the cost for repair/replacement if the gas company needed to access the gas line.

b. The First Parish land multipurpose field design and cost estimate was presented and reviewed. The design includes 1 full size 11v11 multipurpose grass field with width to accommodate 2 9v9 fields, parking with 83 spaces, and an optional small practice field. Optional costs for athletic field lighting and artificial turf upgrades are provided. The full project with all options has an estimated cost of \$2.4 million.

a. The recreation commission asked if a track could fit around the field. There is a 20 foot setback to the property lines, however, the space is tight.

b. Recreation Commission supports an idea of a fund-raiser for the addition of artificial turf.

c. The Recreation Commission felt that the issues highlighted for the Thurston Middle School lighting project were substantial and that they support the town's consideration of the First Parish multipurpose field development option.

Next meeting: scheduled for February 24, 2020

Moved by Mitch Katzman, seconded by Shelia Moylan to adjourn the Recreation Commission meeting of January 27, 2020, at 9:02 pm

Submitted by Lynn Connors