

MINUTES
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 20, 2023

Recreation Commission members present: Sheila Moylan, Ann Delaney, Paul Tucceri, Theresa Ann Laham, Fouad Matar

Recreation Staff present: Rich Adams, Sue Perry

Call to Order: 7:10 PM, June 20, 2023

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda:

- a) Theresa Ann Laham made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Fouad Matar seconded it. Unanimously approved.
- b) Fouad Matar motioned to approve the minutes from May 22, 2022 and Paul Tucceri seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Member Reports:

- (a) Annual Reorganization:
 - 1) Sheila Moylan volunteered to remain on as Chair. Ann Delaney made a motion to nominate Sheila Moylan as Chair and Theresa Ann Laham seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 2) Fouad Matar volunteered to take over as Vice Chair since Ann Delaney's term is up and she must step down. Theresa made a motion to nominate Fouad Matar and Paul Tucceri seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 3) Katie Collins volunteered to remain on as Secretary. Theresa made a motion to nominate Katie Collins as Secretary and Fouad Matar seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- (b) Middle School Programming:
 - 1) Theresa Ann Laham asked if any more thought has been given to middle school programming. The recreation department has tried several programs over the last few years and nothing has run because of lack of interest. They welcome specific programming any ideas from the commission. They are hopeful that they can create a teen center in the Deerfield building in a few years, but do not have any ideas that they haven't tried in their current space.
- (c) Daytime Programming (Parent hours):
 - 1) Theresa Ann Laham said that she had heard lots of interest in programming during parent hours (10:00AM to 3:00PM). We used to offer pickleball in the morning but interest waned, so morning pickleball was eliminated and the participants joined the evening groups. Daytime programming is an option if they can get coaches to agree to teach in the morning or they can find an offsite program that is set up to daytime programs.
 - 2) Examples of programs that we think would spark interest include:
 - i. Golf
 - ii. Pickleball
 - iii. Bowling
 - iv. Knitting/crocheting/quilting
 - v. Cooking
 - vi. Flower arranging

Monthly Report:

- (a) As reported last time, the fishing derby had lower attendance than prior years, but was a great day.
- (b) The school street playground construction (which began in May) was completed and the playground re-opened on Friday, June 16. This was posted on Facebook and will be posted in the Westwood Wire and Westwood Word. Reaction has been very positive so far.
- (c) The Recreation Department is busy getting ready for the summer camp to start on Monday. They are fully staffed.
- (d) Paul Tucceri reported that he has heard very positive feedback on the men's winter basketball league. Rich Adams noted that the women's spring basketball league is popular as well.
- (e) Paul Tucceri asked if we should consider an over 30 soccer league but the department feels that the administration of a league like that would be too cumbersome and it would be too difficult to recruit and maintain all the coaches and administrators necessary to make that work. Rich Adams did note that they have had success with youth field hockey, but that consisted of forming a couple of teams and joining an already existing league. Theresa Ann Laham reported that the field hockey program has been great for the participants.

Director/Staff Reports:

- (a) Event Updates:
 - 1) Firefighter's Foam will take place on July 12 at the Sheehan School
- (b) Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Update
 - 1) Lots of good candidates
 - 2) Zoom interviews held
 - 3) Final 3 candidates come in for in person interviews on Friday, June 23
- (c) Program Updates
 - 1) Summer staff training went well. Camp starts on Monday, June 26. Due to insurance reasons, we have not yet been able to get approval to have inflatables at summer camp.
- (d) Fields/Facilities
 - 1) School Street playground looks very nice. The new equipment is a big hit. The playground has "poured in place" rubber surfacing and new equipment that are wheel-chair accessible.

Other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting:

- (a) Paul Tucceri asked why we stopped renting the soccer fields to the Needham soccer league in the summers. We did not turn them away, they simply stopped asking to rent the fields. We would be happy to rent them if they ask.
- (b) This is Ann Delaney's last meeting as a member of the recreation commission.

Next Meeting: Thursday August 24, 2023

Motion to adjourn by Ann Delaney and seconded by Theresa Ann Laham. Unanimously passed, meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Ann Delaney