

Minutes for Recreation Commission Meeting 5/24/23

Attendees: Michael O'Donnell, Ron Richter, Robin Steele, Nikki Taylor, Heidi Trockman

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Ron made a motion to approve minutes for April 26th meeting; Heidi seconded. Approval passed 3-0 (Mike not in attendance for the vote)

Recreation Town Projects

Playground

- Town Center Playground has been ordered and approved by SB
- Installation is scheduled in November
- Josh and DPW to meet on 5/30 with disability commission to discuss accessibility
- Some residents expressed concern that there was no prior discussion with the DC after reading articles in The Bedford Citizen
- Robin suggested having residents attend an RC meeting to discuss their concerns
- Meeting would need to be held in Select Board room or other accessible room with Zoom access
- Nikki to talk to Josh about Zoom/Hybrid for the meeting
- DC should prioritize what they need at each site
- DC can be most helpful identifying public spaces and what we can do with them
- Design is cost-driven; to resurface all of it would cost between \$150K-\$200K
- Most playgrounds are not fully accessible
- Nikki explained how DPW comes to CPC with list of projects for next fiscal year that need approval
- Ron requested clarification on the process of how and when the R.C. gets looped in

Turf Field Study

- Meeting held on 5/17 with Activitas with site visits done on 5/23
- 12-week project with final report due in the Fall
- Usage, calendar, rental, adult programming is all part of the study
- Original field study was voted down at Town Meeting, but R.C. voted to fund a smaller scale study for \$26K
- There has been some pushback from residents
- R.C. needs to emphasize that this study is much smaller in scope and that doesn't mean we would go ahead with it. It would still go through all the proper approval channels

Tennis Court Resurfacing

- Resurfacing to be done at all high school tennis courts
- There are cracks on the courts
- It will take about a week to complete
- To be scheduled around programming in late summer/early fall
- Basketball courts will also be done if there is enough funding left over

Finance Report

- Up over 23% since last year!
- Most of the increase has been driven by KC and SA
- March revenue is high because we take in all the summer revenue

Recreation Specialist

- Requests for inclusion have doubled
- Increased need for someone to handle responsibilities for classes and programming that are specifically designed to be therapeutic
- Position was set for 30 hours per week to be flexible enough to cover a variety of needs
- R.C. suggested making it a 40-hour work week to widen pool of qualified applicants
- Salary would come from revolving fund

Summer Programs Update

- Kid's Club open 8-6 beginning June 26th; registration opened on 5/2
- Summer Adventures sessions mostly full; several have waitlists
- Record number of CIT applicants of 73
- All counselors have been hired and we are at capacity
- SPB is ready for summer opening; sand has been added and repairs have been made (what was the final cost?)
- Enough crew and lifeguards to cover additional hours

Community Preservation Committee Member

Robin's term with the CPC is up for renewal; a motion was made to have her continue as our liaison; Ron motioned to approved; Heidi seconded. Passed 4-0

Next meeting schedule for 6/21/23 at 7pm; Heidi made motion to adjourn; Ron seconded