

Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday, June 30, 2020
Remote via Zoom
7:00 PM
Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order

Members Present: Dan Provost, Stephanie Papakonstantis, Courtney Marshall, Mike Wissler, and Brinn Sullivan; and Molly Cowan, Select Board rep; and Melissa Roy, David Tovey and Greg Bisson of Parks and Rec.

Members Absent: Val Castonguay, Jenn Harrington, Steve Geiger

Ms. Papakonstantis called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

3. Minute Approval

MOTION: Mr. Wissler moved to table the minutes. Mr. Provost seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

4. Program Updates

a. CareKids

Mr. Tovey said training for the CareKids program began last week, and they're starting to set up at the Rec Park. Ms. Roy said they had an open house via Zoom, which seven families attended. They are trying to shift the program to a safer area of the park, as the Governor has advised to keep the facilities open to the public. They currently have 28 children registered, with the capacity for 45. The summer program was able to be classified as emergency child care, which qualified them for a shipment of cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer. They also submitted for a reimbursement for extra costs due to Covid. Mr. Bisson said that Convenient MD is sponsoring the program by paying for a contractor to sanitize the facility nightly. Ms. Roy added that Walmart is considering donating art supplies. If families want to send in art supplies from home, they can. Ms. Papakonstantis suggested they also solicit donations from the community.

Mr. Bisson mentioned that they worked with the town Health Officer on the guidelines, and found that the kids can play together normally within the group, just not with other groups.

Courtney Marshall arrived at this time.

b. Summer programs

i. Tennis

They made the decision not to run tennis at all this summer. This program will be back in 2021.

ii. Pickleball

Pickleball is back; 12 people attended the first session, out of the 30 - 40 people they typically get.

iii. Baseball and Softball

These programs are back, they've met the restrictions. This is a free program, a sandlot adult softball with no records. This program is buying a 10x12' shed for Parks and Rec so they can use the old shed.

5. Project Updates

a. Kids Park

Mr. Bisson showed images from the nearly completed Kids Park. The park will have a ribbon cutting on Thursday. All other playgrounds are open; they are fully sanitized once a week, otherwise it's "use at your own risk."

b. Gilman Park Pavilion

Mr. Bisson said the Pavilion work is ongoing. Covid-19 is still hampering the supply chain. They had a shipment of lumber that was warped and had to be sent back, and the replacement should be in this week. The next step is an RFP to paint it.

6. Events Update

a. Concerts

Mr. Bisson said they've been working closely with the SAU to set up the concerts. The next one is this Thursday. They are getting 20-30 cars per event, but there's room for more. Ms. Sullivan asked if they pay the bands, and Mr. Bisson said yes, they had Select Board approval to spend up to \$8,000 on the concert series.

b. Movies

Ms. Roy said they've had great feedback about the movie events. They were originally 50 cars but that felt like too many, so they cut them to 40 or 45. They heard the feedback that they were missing diversity in the movie choices, so they are looking at additional options. Ms. Marshall said she'd had people suggest other movie titles that featured non-white people and will send them in. Mr. Bisson said he will also work with Jess Proventure for a documentary screening of 13th in recognition of the Black Lives Matter movement. Ms. Sullivan suggested reviewing the mission of the Rec Board and seeing if they've been as inclusive as possible.

Ms. Papakonstantis said she'd like to see this movie program repeated in future years. Ms. Roy said they should consider once a month, because every Friday is a lot for the staff.

7. CIP Update

a. Planet Playground

The Department submitted a proposal for Planet Playground last Friday, keeping in mind the economic climate. New LWCF requirements no longer allow grantees to receive grants if they only lease the property. They got a lease, but it needs to be in perpetuity to qualify. They're looking to see if they can add that to the agreement or try to purchase the land. This would be a Warrant Article/CIP for \$700,000; if they receive the \$300,000 grant, it would cost the town \$400,000.

b. Rec Park

They heard during the Rec Park redesign process that they needed more data, so they put in a CIP for a Recreation Master Plan. They tried to gather enough information through the senior survey, but maybe they need a third party to gather more info.

8. New Business

a. Senior Council

Ms. Roy said the Senior Council had a discussion about getting the AARP classification of Age-Friendly Community in Exeter. They also ordered thirty TV tables and will take them to senior centers for a socially distanced Bingo game, and will be experimenting with other ideas for seniors over the next few months.

b. YMCA Collaboration

Ms. Roy said they're talking with Kim Meyers of the YMCA on a collaboration, and hope to be working with them soon.

9. Old Business

a. Powderkeg Festival

Mr. Bisson said no decision has been made on Powderkeg; they will circle back after the 4th of July. They have temporarily paused ticket sales. The Great American Beer Fest in CO has been cancelled and is looking to do more of a virtual beer fest. They are looking at ways to social distance the Powderkeg event. The NH festival guidelines are in draft form, but they remove the cap of attendees on events as long as they can distance by 6 feet. They can't have reusing of cups. They've only sold 210 tickets, but 75% of ticket sales typically happen in September. Ms. Papakonstantis said they can make the decision to go forward or not at next month's meeting. Ms. Sullivan said the idea of having a Beer Fest scares her. They're supposed to be promoting healthy and safe activities. Ms. Papakonstantis said people have come from out of state for the festival in the past. Ms. Cowan said there was a Swasey Parkway event approved by the Select Board last night, but for town liability and responsibility they may not want to do a town-sponsored event like Powderkeg. Ms. Marshall said the PEA kids will be all back that weekend so the timing may not work.

b. Award

Ms. Roy said that Mr. Bisson was honored by Chamber as Community Leader of the Year in a virtual award ceremony.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Wissler moved to adjourn. Ms. Sullivan seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary