

Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday, June 29, 2021
Rec Building
7:00 PM
Final Minutes

1. Call to Order

Members Present: Dan Provost, Stephanie Papakonstantis, Jenn Harrington, and Brinn Sullivan; and Melissa Roy, David Tovey and Greg Bisson of Parks and Rec.

Members Absent: Courtney Marshall, Mike Wissler, Connor Barry, and Val Castonguay; Julie Gilman, Select Board rep

Ms. Papakonstantis called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

2. Minute Approval

a. May 25, 2021

The minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

3. Vote of Officers

a. The voting was tabled until the next meeting.

4. Openings on the Board

a. Mr. Bisson said there are two alternate openings on the Board. Interested members of the public should submit an application to Pam in the Town Offices.

5. Program Updates

a. Summer Programs

i. Activities Update

Mr. Tovey said Flag Football begins next week. The numbers are down from previous years in grades 1-3, so they may want to trim the program to one week instead of two. In Golf camp, they added a third week. Last year had a big uptick in interest. The Lego and Vet School camps are filling up; they have a max of 10. Both are offering half day and full day, but most are registering for full day. Masks are required. For the new stand up paddleboard yoga program, the numbers are low, but it just started. Ms. Sullivan said the program was at a variety of times, not a consistent time. Mr. Bisson said this was due to the tide.

ii. Camps Update

Mr. Tovey said Summer Adventure Camp is going well. They have a new pool process, where they're shutting it down for the camp, and a new staff. The kids are having fun. They're looking at a possible field trip to a local State park like Pawtuckaway. Ms. Sullivan said they should check the water quality. Ms. Papakonstantis said the feedback she'd heard about summer camp was that they'd like additional snack shack breaks because the kids are missing them, as well as extra pool time. They'd also like to alternate the pool times, so that the same group isn't

waiting until 2 PM every day. Ms. Harrington said having no free time 1-3 is a bummer, and she's hoping it comes back in the future. Mr. Tovey and Ms. Roy described the new changing system for the pool, which they've set up pop up tents for.

iii. Pool Update

Ms. Roy said they can usually 163 people in the pool, but today they were short staffed and could only allow 100, so there was a line out the door for three hours. They're going to have to shut down on July 4th and 5th, since there are not enough lifeguards. There was a huge staff turnover when they shut the pool down; they used the opportunity to change the staff culture and the rules. They don't have a pool manager, so she and Greg are at the pool all the time. There's a shortage of lifeguards and of certification classes. No one wants to work on the weekends, so they're short on pool and concession staff. Mr. Bisson said next year, they'll be reevaluating the pay structure at pool and camp. They had to give the returning guards a raise to come back, just to match the starting pay elsewhere. Ms. Roy added that they made changes with swim tests this year and some parents are annoyed. Ms. Harrington said there was some confusion about the pool times. Ms. Roy said Google had the hours wrong. Lap swim is difficult but the morning pool opening is a hit.

b. Sports Programs

Mr. Bisson said Pickleball on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday is a success and has brought in a lot of revenue. They're working with Big Brothers Big Sisters on the Pickleball tournament July 11; they had to cap registrations when they reached 190 registered. Big Brothers Big Sisters will be writing a nice check for scholarships. Access Sports is one of their sponsors and will allow parking in their lot. They will use the six courts, plus tape 6 additional courts, for play on 12 courts.

Tennis is going well. The USDA filled up, and they're offering a second session. Tiny Tennis with 3 and 4 year olds had six participants. Track and field had the shortest meet ever, participating virtually. He's dealing with Adult softball, but he's not sure if they will keep them as a program.

c. Outdoor Fitness Classes

Barre Fitness wants to come back in the fall. They had 12 people sign up in the spring. Team Mindful camp got cancelled since there were only 2 sign ups, but they will offer it again in July/August. They're holding Chair Yoga under the pavilion at Gilman, paid for using senior money from the budget. 12 are registered. They're looking to add more classes in the fall

d. 10K Update

Mr. Bisson said they decided to extend registration to July.. Mr. Tovey said they've had 17 or 18 registrants so far.

e. Senior Trips

The senior activities are filling up, such as a Jimmy Buffet tribute show in NY.

6. Project Update

a. Park Street Common Survey

Mr. Bisson said he will be working with an intern to put together the Park Street Common survey to get resident feedback. They're planning a casual gathering at the park at the end of summer. They may be able to regrade the as part of the Salem Street sewer project. They're looking to do the playground work next spring. A lot of parents want to see a fence, but the residents are anti-fence. They could do a nice architectural fence, it doesn't have to be chain link.

7. Events Update

a. Concerts

Ms. Papakonsantis said the Select Board heard from an irate neighbor about the Swasey Parkway concerts. Mr. Bisson said he talked to the interns who were running it, and they didn't think it was excessively loud. It may have been the change of genres from country to rock. The town noise ordinance only applies at night after 10 PM, not during the day.

b. Fireworks

The Fireworks will take place on July 10th. There will be a concert at 7 PM until the fireworks around 9 or 9:30. The American Independence Festival is doing events on the museum grounds, not the Parkway.

c. Powder Keg

Tickets for Powderkeg will go on sale Aug 1, but they're still looking for an underwriter, as they lost Foy Insurance to the Duck Race. People are excited about the dual session, but upset about no chili. He's hoping that people stay in town and spend money, and he's encouraging restaurants to put chili on the menu. Kingston is holding a beer fest the weekend before. They will be saving some money as they won't have the big tents. There's a Portapotty shortage, and the estimate for those doubled, to \$6000.

d. Criterium week was cancelled because of Covid. The national group encouraged someone to organize it locally, and the local organizer is thinking of having it in the fall.

8. Old Business/New Business

a. There was no old/new business considered.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Harrington, moved to adjourn. Mr. Provost seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary