

RECREATION COMMISSION
Greenfield Community Youth Center
January 19, 2023 6:00pm

ATTENDING:

- Christy Moore, Barb Zaccheo, Donna DuSell, Heather Valenta, Danica Hochstetler, and Myrt Jaquay

6:02pm CALL TO ORDER

6:03pm REVIEW OF DECEMBER 8, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

- Heather made a motion to accept the December 8, 2022 meeting minutes with no edits. Danica seconded. All voted in favor.
- Carryover action items:
 - In preparation for next season, Christy will be presenting a few changes for approval in regards to the Swim Area refund policy language, weather closure policy language and age for unaccompanied youth.
 - Christy will work on updates to the Swim Area website (once approved) along with a revised registration form specifically for passes.
 - Christy and Kelly need to find Triathlon volunteers who can take over some of the more physical needs of the committee during race week as current dedicated volunteers are aging and need to train new members. Commissioners are encouraged to contact Christy with any contacts to fill these volunteer positions.
 - Christy research to match someday with Friends fund or revolving or youth money for projects proposed for Community preservation funds.
 - Christy review the leases for various parks including Abercrombie, Lunt, and Murphy.
 - Mark Lombard of New England Mountain Biking (used to be on the Recreation Commission) could be good for Kim to network with him about NEMBA grants, etc. for Highland Park trail improvements.
 - Christy needs to create and develop the policies and procedures for the Teen Center program. There was a candidate from a recent applicant pool that Christy may speak with to gauge their interest. Otherwise, Christy will post the part-time position (20-25 hours/week).
 - Christy work on revenue/budget to share with the Commission.
 - Christy is working on the rules for the Skate Park.
 - Commissioners are encouraged to propose ideas for the Sustainable Greenfield Committee position to Christy.
 - Christy is working with Eric about the City's recent ownership of a 13 acres parcel and an easement to the surrounding six acres (there's also a house there that someone recently bought at auction) in Highland Park- check in on this in Spring 2023.

- If Jennifer Hoffman is unable to attend Recreation Commission meetings, a replacement will need to be found.

6:08pm PUBLIC INPUT

- None

6:09pm RECREATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

GRANT UPDATES:

Stanton Foundation Capital Grant (Paws Park, dog park):

- Since last month's meeting the storage shed, grass seed mats, dog walk ramp, and benches have been ordered. The shed and grass mat have been delivered. The dog ramp is in route. The Paws Park benches have been ordered although Christy needs to confirm bench coloring as they have changed. Samples have arrived – Christy needs to match colors. Fencing is the final part to order.

Greenfield Local Cultural Council (GLCC) Grant Award:

- GLCC funded \$1,200 for winter carnival ice sculptures and \$150 towards the skate park mural project. For the skate park mural project, Barb suggested reaching out to Mark and Gabriel Zaccheo at Hidden Canvas Mural Project (<https://hiddencanvasmurals.com>) to share information about murals, funding, artists, etc. in Greenfield.

Budget Update

- Due to the staffing changes at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Christy has been advised that Green River Swim Area water testing will need to be covered under the Recreation Department budget and potentially outsourced due to lab certification delays in Greenfield. The lab tech manager has left and the certification process takes months to approve through the state so the Recreation Department is preparing for the worst case scenario. There is a Board of Health meeting on 1/25/23 to discuss the options. The department's operating budget update: Christy miscalculated the payroll due to the change to biweekly pay. Therefore the new budget submitted was \$264,706.

PROGRAMS UPDATES:

Basketball Programs:

- Basketball is in full gear. The Department held the first round of home games on January 7th and this weekend is the second round of home games. It is great to be back at Greenfield Middle School although Christy wishes that they had more gym space.
- Pee Wee started on January 10th with three full teams.
- Adult basketball started on January 12th and is full. They have not played since the pandemic so they are very happy to return.

- Thanks to a coach recommendation for the travel teams, the Recreation Department is now using a Game Changer App to communicate with coaches and families. It has been a lifesaver with communicating about practice schedule changes and knowing where each team is. The Department hopes to use it for other sports programs as well.

Greenfield Recreation After School Program (GRASP):

- Christy is happy to share that the Department has rehired Owen Schilling as part of the GRASP team. He worked for the Recreation Department at both sites previously. He has moved back to the area and the Department is thrilled to have him back.
- GRASP license renewal is under way and due in March. It is an every other year process.
- The Recreation Department is reviewing GRASP budgets and comparing area alternatives to develop a potential pricing change.
- The Recreation Department is in the process of developing options for the potential reconfiguration of elementary schools. The Superintendent and Christy have had discussions about the potential changes. The Recreation Department is preparing different scenarios and will meet with the Superintendent to share the best options. Transportation will also need to be reviewed. Christy shared study review options that were drafted by the Superintendent's team.

6:32pm OLD BUSINESS

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Updates:

- Christy attended the CPC meeting on 1/12/2023 where the following Recreation projects were discussed.
- Kim Boas presented on the Trail Restoration at Highland Park. Kim confirmed that the work would be with Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and AmeriCorps and supervision would be with Christy and Kim Boas. The project would fall under the Recreation not Open Space category. Christy emphasized that the City does not currently have staff who specialize in trail maintenance like the AMC. The hope would be that DPW and others could learn from AMC.
- Phil Elmer presented on the Highland Pond Fountain and restoration of the pond. The project's goal is to re-oxygenate the water in the pond. Electrical upgrades would be needed at the building. There were CPC questions as to where any pond cleanup debris would go to dry and then be removed.
- George Touloumtzis reported on the Safe Bicycle Link project connecting Greenfield and Deerfield. The project would be a feasibility study with support from both Deerfield and Greenfield CPC. **Christy will provide a map to the CPC members for evaluation.**
- Joy Whitbeck and Christy presented to the CPC about the Highland Park Signage project. There seemed to be support for this project but due to funding limitations, Joy was asked if the project could be broken down into phases.

Christy is to prepare phases to submit to the CPC. There was a lot of discussion on the funding and voting timelines of CPC and CIC (Capital Improvement Committee). CIC has supported and approved the project. The project could be funded by both entities.

- Next CPC meeting is January 26th and the pickleball project will be on the agenda.
- Christy needs to submit to the CPC updates for Highland Park water fountain, map for George's project, phases for Highland Park Sign Project and GHS track.
- Christy checked out the tennis court drinking fountain with DPW- there are issues of high cost due to a new water line, hidden location, etc.
- Christy and Ginny Desorgher discussed the bocce ball project and the Greenfield High School track projects.

6:32pm NEW BUSINESS

Winter Carnival

- Posters are here, brochure expected tomorrow, VolunteerSpot is active so Commissioners and other can sign up to volunteer at Winter Carnival, ice is confirmed with 11 total with 10 in competition, the City will have two ice corn hole boards where the ice slide was last year at Court Square in front of City Hall.
- Parade of Lights has 13 confirmed entries so far.
- The Recreation Department is hoping that there will be Chili Contest entries again this year. Christy updated that there will be a cart this year to transport the chili from the building. Barb and Danica are happy to share their larger crock pots with Donna for Winter Carnival.
- City Hall signed the Winter Carnival Fireworks contract for a total shell count of 350.
- Christy seeks a Commissioner to serve as the Family Fun Fest point of contact from 9am to 1pm as Christy and Kelly will be busy with the Virtual Jigsaw Puzzle Contest.

Summer 2023:

Fireworks

- The event date is July 1st with a rain date of July 15th. Contract has been signed. Sponsorship and vending forms have been updated and will go out soon.

Corn Hole Tournament:

- May 6th: rain date May 7
- Poster will be completed by the end of February
- Licensing – Christy inquired with Danica if she wants to have Hitchcok and Pioneer Valley Brewing back and also the event time frame as there is paperwork to complete for this event. Danica and Christy will be in touch on the Corn Hole Tournament details.

Mutts & Mayhem May 21, 2023:

- Shayla is working on sponsorship and vendor forms Heather will provide a list of potential Mutts and Mayhem vendors and sponsors.

Summer Camp and Lifeguard Staffing:

- Return letters of interest have been sent to last year's staff.

Taste of Greenfield June 17, 2023 at Beacon Field

- Empress will coordinate a Taste of Greenfield event and will fill out a facility use permit at Beacon Field.

Juneteenth at Energy Park June 19, 2023

- Empress will coordinate a Juneteenth event and will fill out a facility use permit. Event will be at Energy Park.

Parks

Energy Park Signs

- Finally was able to speak with Sign Techniques and unfortunately the Mylar/transparency films cannot be used to reproduce any of the old signs. The technology has changed since the park opened. The Department would need to redesign all of the artwork and reproduce it. Nancy Hazard has two new signs she would like created as well. Energy Park signs will be an ongoing project.

Dog Park

- Christy received an email in regards to an aggressive dog at the park. Christy shared with the City Animal Control Officer who will speak to the individual about their dog and the dog park rules. For now, it's been difficult to find the accused person and their dog at the Park when the Animal Control Officer stops by.

Highland Park Trails

- The Recreation Department has been approached to consider naming a trail after the late Mark Maloney in memory of his love of hiking local trails and community involvement. Christy shared the City Code for naming a trail in memory of a person. According to the City Code, Chapter 71-5 Naming of Municipal Buildings, Facilities and Public Places, if there are requests to name or rename a municipal building, other fixed facilities or a public place shall be made in writing and filed with the Town Clerk of the Town Council. Such requests may be made by the Mayor, a Town Councilor, or by petition of at least 100 registered voters of the Town of Greenfield. The written request will need to be submitted to the Clerk, approved at Council to request Planning and Construction Committee to hold a hearing and send a recommendation to the Council for final vote. The department would fully support this especially in conjunction with the trail mapping and signage project.

- Danica made a motion in support of naming a trail in Rocky Mountain Park in memory of the late Mark Maloney and Myrt seconded. All voted in favor.
- Christy will work with Chris Forgey, Martha Maloney, and others to move the naming of a Rocky Mountain Park trail in memory of the late Mark Maloney.

Abercrombie Field

- After December's Recreation Commission meeting, Christy, Alan and Eric met with developers David Zaccheo and Mark Zaccheo. At the meeting, Alan shared that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MASS DOT) will be upgrading the sidewalks and crosswalks along Montague City Road and that the Abercrombie road way would be added to the City's paving list but would be several years out. Christy did share that the Recreation Commission and Department are not in favor of the developers' original proposal as parking for the ball field and potential pickleball courts are needed. Christy proposed that when the City paves the roadway that the City could move the road to abut the developers' property. This seemed amendable however the projects' timelines do not coincide. After further discussion, the City asked the developers to revise the amount of land they are requesting and add additional parking within the confines of their property and submit the changes. Christy would then present the changes to the next Recreation Commission meeting for review. If approved, Eric reminded the developers that any sale of City Owned land must follow Surplus Property Disposition procedures. Christy shared the maps of the proposed changes and the Commission discussed the various options. There were concerns expressed about the unknowns in regards to the design of the pickleball courts and parking needs. There was discussion about protecting existing trees. There were options for the developer to create parking on the existing property off of the driveway or Montague City Road that would not displace any mature trees.
- Heather made a motion to propose to the developers that the line is drawn where the angled parking spots end on the South side and await response from developers. Much discussion was had about if the City needed to agree to this before the pickleball court project. Danica seconded. Almost all voted in favor, Barb abstained.

Future Agenda Items

- Abercrombie Field and parking arrangements for baseball practices and games given new ownership of former Greenfield Center School and renovation/development
- Parks tour for Commissioners
- Energy Park funds with Friends of Recreation-for summer 2023

Next Meeting Date: February 9th at 6pm

Adjourn – Motion made by: Danica

Seconded by: Heather