

RECREATION COMMISSION
Greenfield Community Youth Center
February 9, 2023 6pm

ATTENDING:

- Christy Moore, Barb Zaccheo, Donna DuSell, Heather Valenta, Mary Phillips, and Myrt Jaquay

6:04pm CALL TO ORDER

6:03pm REVIEW OF JANUARY 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

- Heather made a motion to accept the January 19, 2023 meeting minutes with no edits. Myrt seconded. All voted in favor.
- Carryover action items were moved to “Future Agenda Items” or will be covered in tonight’s agenda.

6:13pm PUBLIC INPUT

- Heather’s husband, Jason, asked if the pricing could be updated for Winter Carnival chili and cookie tickets to allow everyone a chance to sample all.
- Community member mentioned she and her son had a great time at the Cribbage Tournament.
- Many community members were grateful to the Recreation Department and volunteers for such a fun family weekend at Winter Carnival.

6:19pm RECREATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ethics training

- Everyone on the Recreation Commission needs to finish this. Jennifer and Heather completed theirs.

Massachusetts Humanities Grant

- Christy has been thinking about applying for a Mass Humanities grant to host a local public reading and talk about Frederick Douglass’s influential address, *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?* Attendees gather to read the speech out loud from start to finish. Mass Humanities organizes and funds free public events. It appears to be about a half an hour long and then maybe discussion longer.
- Christy will work with Mpress and/or Greenfield Public Library and Greenfield Community College (Mary Phillips will reach out at GCC.) Commissioners agreed that Beacon Field may not be the right fit for this.

Basketball Programs:

- Basketball tournament for grades 2-4 will be the weekend of March 11th at Bernardston Elementary. The Coaches' meeting and details are to be determined.
- Basketball tournament for grades 5-6 will be February 16-19 at Vernon Elementary. The Coaches' meeting is tonight.
- Basketball trophies and ribbons have been ordered.
- The end of the season awards ceremony is scheduled for Monday, February 27th at 6pm.

Greenfield After School Program (GRASP):

- It's hard to believe that the program is more than half way through the school year. Greenfield Recreation is working on GRASP licensing renewal as they are due next Month. Kelly will be attending a mandatory meeting next week for the renewal.

Operating and Capital Budgets:

- Christy met with the Mayor on January 26th to review operating and capital budget requests. At this time, there were no changes to the operating budget request. Mayor was supportive of additional staff for the Teen Center.
- On the Capital budget, the Mayor supported the requests but shared that there will need to be cuts to the proposed project list. She asked the status of Community Preservation Act as some projects were requested in both entities. Christy will soon be meeting again with the Mayor about the Capital and Operating budgets.

Recreation Commission on City of Greenfield website:

- Caitlin VonSchmdi in the Mayor's office is working with a contractor to update the City of Greenfield website. Christy presented a draft of the "What we do statement" with the Commission for discussion. There were minor edits to the text and Christy will work with Caitlin to have this section updated.
 - In paragraph one, strike the last "The Recreation Commission" and replace it with "and."
 - In paragraph two, shrink "to support the Department's mission and vision and" from the first sentence.
 - In paragraph three, add to after volunteer "and encourage community participation."

6:38pm Old Business

Winter Carnival

- Christy thanked the Commission for all the help during Winter Carnival weekend.
- Greenfield Recreation prepared "Winter Carnival debrief" notes.
- Additions from the Commission to the debrief notes included:

- Christy coordinate with Greenfield Business Association to ensure that window display winners are announced.
- Fireworks add winter cheer. More folks enjoy fireworks from their couches due to no foliage. Christy collect paper debris at Poet's Seat.
- Parade of Lights had a few less entrants due to water main breaks (DPW) and Greenfield Community College was a nice surprise entry.
- Young families enjoyed that a World Eye Bookshop gift certificate was part of the raffle. Wonderful to see enthusiasm for reading books.
- Myrt and Heather had trouble exiting K9 Keg pull due to the need for more barricades for next year. They will advertise K9 Keg Pull more next year. K9 Keg Pull will discuss policies about encouraging muzzles if the dog is known to bite other dogs and disqualification for misbehavior.
- Christy shared the draft budget update. The current loss on the event is \$1,688 however there are more expenses coming.
- Commissioners are encouraged to look at Amherst and North Adams for ice sculptors this weekend and report any info back to Christy.

Open Discussion

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Updates:

- Christy attended the CPC meeting on 02/07/2023 and provided updates to the making the high school track accessible for those with disabilities, Highland Park drinking water fountain, George's Bike Assessment on connector between Deerfield and Greenfield, Wayfinding Signage at Highland Park and Beacon Field projects. Christian shared the schedule for upcoming meeting dates for the rest of its application review process. Commissioners are invited to please join and share your thoughts both in person and on the feedback form. Community input is critical to the CPA committee members who will be making funding decisions for each project. Meeting links will be available on the City calendar as we get closer to the dates.
 - February 23 5:30pm at John Zon Community Center (hybrid) - meeting for public comment on applications
 - March 9 5:30pm at City Hall Meeting Room (hybrid) - follow up meeting for discussing public comment and all applications
 - March 23 5:30pm at City Hall Meeting Room (hybrid) - meeting for committee vote on funding recommendations
- Christy also encouraged Commissioners to check out the committee's Google form for members of the community to give their feedback on the projects available here: <https://forms.gle/d7xPzJm2kadqJYwr5>
- Christy also shared that she spoke with Dani in the Mayor's Office and COS and Dani is working on letters from the Mayor's Office in regards to land ownership

and oversight of Gerrett Street and GHS track being in the parks and recreation oversight and management.

7:16 pm New Business

Summer 2023:

Green River Swim Area

- As discussed previously, the Recreation Department is working to update the swim area website including the following topics:
 - Special Registration Form (include no refund policy) which will be determined later.
 - Refund policy language specifically for Swim Area Season Passes which will be determined later
 - Update policy regarding age of those who can visit the park alone- will be determined later
 - Add to website- directions/ process for purchasing & renewing season passes- pick up cards at gate, save cards, etc- will be determined later
 - Water Testing information- will be determined later

Season Pass Refund Policy Language on Swim Area website:

- Myrt made a motion with a second by Mary and all voted in favor to accept the following: “No credits or refunds for Swim Area Season Passes will be issued after May 31st. No credits or refunds will be issued for unused pass(es). No credits or refunds will be issued for park closure due to inclement weather, water quality testing, maintenance, city ordinance, events, or other closures.”

Weather Closure Policy Language/ Daily Admission Refund Policy on Swim Area website:

- Myrt made a motion and Mary seconded and all voted in favor to accept the following: “To ensure the safety and security of park patrons, in the event of inclement weather that requires the evacuation of the river, all guests will be required to gather their belongings and either leave the facility or wait in an approved area (vehicle or park restrooms). The river will reopen 30 minutes after the last lightning/thunder if it has been deemed safe. There are no refunds to daily admissions for inclement weather, but rain checks will be available with the gate attendant for paid admissions lasting less than 2 hours.”

Age Policy for Swim Area website:

- Myrt made a motion and Mary seconded and all voted in favor to accept the following: “Persons younger than 9 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible person 16 years of age or older.”

Water testing at Swim Area:

- Christy met with the State and the Board of Health in regards to the special water testing. It was determined that the special testing would be required prior to opening. The next Board of Health meeting to determine where the weekly testing is to occur is scheduled for March 1st.

Camp Registration Fees:

- Christy provided comparisons to other local camps:
 - YMCA Camp Apex is \$230 a week member / \$275 non member (with early and late care if needed)
 - Camp Lionel - \$200 a week – (2022 rates)
 - Camp Kiwanee - \$625 for three weeks (2022 rates)
- Heather made a motion and Mary seconded with all voting in favor of raising the rates from \$150 to \$175 (base) and keeping the same \$25 each for early and late care as needed.

Fireworks

- Christy will work with Recreation Department staff to send out sponsorship letters next week. Two vendors have already applied to participate.

Corn Hole

- Christy and Mary confirmed that this fundraiser will occur on May 6th with a rain date of May 7. Registration will begin at 2:30pm and the event starts at 3pm.
- Christy will work to have a Corn Hole poster by the end of February.
- Mary and Christy will discuss if brewers will be back and the need to complete any Licensing paperwork and meetings.

Mutts & Mayhem:

- Christy shared the sponsorship and vendor forms with Heather. If they are ok, Christy will distribute the Mutts and Mayhem sponsorship and vendor forms.

Green River Swim Area Staffing:

- Christy is pleased that the majority of staff from last summer have returned paperwork to work the summer 2023 season. Kelly has reached out to those who have missed the deadline. So far, the Swim Area has 7 returning lifeguards!

Surplus Property Review – Portion of Parcel 4-6A

- Donna made a motion and Mary seconded by and all voted in favor except Barb Zaccheo abstained to the following: “After extensive discussions and meetings, the Recreation Commission is not in favor of the proposed sale of surplus property 4-6A on Montague City Road due to the future potential of expanded recreational use (e.g. pickleball).”

Open Discussion

Dog Park

- Christy received another email in regards to an aggressive dog at the park and shared the information with the City Animal Control Officer. Christy has not heard anything in regards to this situation this week.

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
- 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.
- Research to match someday with Friends fund or revolving or youth money for projects proposed for Community preservation funds.
- Review the leases for various parks including Abercrombie, Lunt, and Murphy.
- Connect Mark Lombard of New England Mountain Biking (used to be on the Recreation Commission) with Kim to network with him about NEMBA grants, etc. for Highland Park trail improvements.
- 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).
- Revenue/budget for Winter Carnival
- Skate Park Rules
- Propose ideas for the Sustainable Greenfield Committee position to Christy.
- Work 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.

Next Meeting Date: March 16th at 6pm (Danica and Mary will be out of town)

Adjourn – Motion made by: Heather

Seconded by: Myrt