

## **Recreation Commission Meeting**

20 Sanderson Street City Offices and Greenfield Community Youth Center

March 14, 2024 6pm

### Attending:

- Elizabeth Nett, Monica Pulci, Stacy Bond, Myrtron Jaquay, Dan Piasecki, Barb Nichols Zaccheo, Heather Valenta, and Christy Moore

### 6:05 pm Meeting called to order

### 6:08 pm Public Input

- Elizabeth Nett found out about North Severance Park at a previous Recreation Commission meeting and afterwards, she walked the property.
- After a year, three are now on the Agricultural Commission. Monica lives on Lampblack Road down the street from Severance Road. Elizabeth is interested in bees, chickens, goats, and rabbits on the Agricultural Commission.
- Elizabeth encourages pollinator pathways (bees can fly up to five miles for forage and rather prefer three miles) and a pollinator garden at North Severance Park. Monica is in support of the pollinator garden. Elizabeth has noticed a reduction of bees in her garden and wants to encourage more pollinators.
- Christy pointed out that there is a small wetland nearby so that could be helpful for more natural plants, insects, etc.
- Christy said Severance is used for whiffleball by teens in the summers. In the future, there's a plan to add a playground and in the near future, the plan is to remove the dilapidated building and improve the baseball fields for lease by a local non profit youth baseball organization.

### 6:16 pm Review of Past Meeting Minutes

- Barb and Christy presented the final draft of the February 15, 2024 meeting minutes- Dan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as is and Heather seconded. All voted in favor.
- Action items that carryover from February 2024:
- Christy follow up with the Mayor's office about funding for programs for families residing at the Days Inn.
- Dan will also review the baseball leases and get back to Christy with any edits.
- Christy will work to complete the Notice of Intent (NOI)/Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) for the Rocky Mountain Trail Maintenance project which was funded by Community Preservation Fund in the 2023 funding cycle.
- Christy needs to book bands for the July 2024 fireworks.
- Danica is researching corn hole tournament scheduling software this year.
- Danica will reach out to DJ Lazer Chicken about the cornhole May 4 tournament.

- Mutts and Mayhem (May 19, 2024) is live although Christy has not updated the website yet and Heather will respond with a volunteer link and with the map of obstacles.
- Barb is working on the January 2024 meeting minutes.

#### **6:18pm Recreation Director Report**

#### **PROGRAM AND OFFICE UPDATES:**

#### **Kelly Jenkins, Assistant Director**

- Kelly is officially on maternity leave. She had a baby boy- he's healthy and she's home recovering. Congratulations to Kelly and her family!
- Kelly worked hard to prepare as much as she could right up until she left for maternity leave.
- Obviously, this is a big and temporary loss of staffing expertise while Kelly is home with her new son. Christy, Shayla, Ben and after school staff are doing their best to distribute the workload. These are big shoes to fill until Kelly returns from maternity leave- all feel her absence already!
- Shayla is handling GRASP which is a huge task as well as her own work duties. Ben is helping with office administration, phone calls, etc. as well as his work duties. Christy is handling all the day to day management of staffing, the administrative and project management as well as her work duties.

#### **Greenfield After School Program (GRASP):**

- GRASP on boarded one new staff person for the Federal Street School program. With spring sports, GRASP is losing two high school group leaders. Christy will continue to look for replacement staff even as GRASP approaches the final few months of school.

#### **REC ROOM:**

- The next season starts on March 18th. Ben shared that the Greenfield Savings Bank money management program with Mpress will host a final celebration and brief student presentation on March 27<sup>th</sup> around 4pm with special guests from the bank: Tom the President and CEO of GSB, Cliff the VP of Compliance and BSA Officer, and Elizabeth O'Connell (a student in the program's mom). Mpress is bringing pizza to share for the celebration. Commissioners are encouraged to attend the final meeting on March 27.

#### **Basketball:**

- Basketball has officially concluded for the year! Shayla did an amazing job coordinating 9 older teams and 3 pee wee teams. The most the Recreation Department has ever had!

#### **Co Rec Softball:**

- Christy and Shayla hosted the manager meet this week. There are 10 teams in the league with practices starting tentatively April 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Rec the Night:**

- The next is on March 15<sup>th</sup> with the theme of “Build Big.” Shayla and Ben have 12 participants registered so far. The next one will be April 12<sup>th</sup> with the theme of “Hide and Seek and Laser Tag.”

#### **Buddy Baseball:**

- Sponsorship letters have been sent via US Mail.
- Buddy Baseball promotional flyers are ready to distribute.

#### **Spring Sports:**

- Registrations are starting to arrive for all programs.

#### **Spring and Summer Brochure:**

- They have been ordered and Christy and Linda are working on all the spring/summer brochure website updates.

#### **Trail Council/Advisory Committee:**

- Christy has been approached by a citizen, Lee Oldenberg, to start some type of trails committee to educate and help maintain the extensive trail system. I did share about the upcoming trails mapping project (capital) and the trail restoration project (CPC) of which they are very happy to hear and supportive. Christy is doing a little bit of research on the topic and would like to discuss it at a future meeting. Currently, there are issues of widening the trail when they are wet and not cutting through and DPW time to maintain the parks. Christy and Lee to meet on a future Trail Council/Advisory Committee.

#### **6:30pm Old Business**

##### **Budget and Capital FY25:**

- The Mayor called a meeting with Christy briefly after the Recreation Department budget submission to say that it was not likely that the Recreation Department would be able to add a new staff person. The Mayor was very kind and greatly disappointed to share this news but she wanted to tell Christy in person which Christy respected.
- Christy is unaware about the rest of the budget request as the Mayor and City Council are still working on the entire city budget.
- Barb asked if it'd be helpful to have Commonwealth Corps or Americorps support. Christy's experience is that it was not a good match at this time as there is high turnover, a lot of paperwork, and a lot of training as the person would not have a lot of professional experience.
- Christy presented capital requests on February 26<sup>th</sup> and has not heard the recommendation for the Mayor.



- The Mayor did ask for follow up information on the picnic tables at the Green River Swim Area and the swings for the Newton School. Christy shared that 1 of 52 picnic tables need replacement. The steel ones with plastic coating withstood Hurricane Irene and are no longer manufactured. The coating is peeling off and exposing the metal. Attempts to re-coat have not been successful. Myrt wondered if they could be refinished with porcelain and maybe the Tech School could possibly help. Christy has found the Tech School waiting list for projects to be very long.
- Replacement tables could be made with recycled plastic however Christy has found that this design is a gooey mess when they catch on fire.
- 11 of 35 bbqs need replacement.
- Replacement picnic tables cost \$33,843 in total and total bbq cost \$3,566.
- Newton School swings need replacement for a cost of \$11,788.
- Green River boardwalk for ADA accessibility needs replacement for a cost of \$17,000.

#### **North Severance Street Park**

- Christy emailed a final cost estimate today to the Mayor and Finance Director for \$40,000 to include evaluation of hazardous materials, building demolition and a small amount for contingency.
- Christy is waiting on final approval and financial order for the North Severance Street Park project. Eric will help with hiring the company to complete the evaluation and demolition once approved. Then Christy needs to work on the lease agreement- the timeline is not set up yet. Christy will reach out to the baseball league once she has a plan.

#### **Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Projects**

- Committee will begin discussion of the projects on March 21 at 5:30pm with March 28<sup>th</sup> being the vote for recommendations to the City Council. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, there is an opportunity for public comment to support projects.
- Barb and Myrt will reach out to Greenfield Pickleball in case they want to participate in public input on the CPC24 application for Pickleball courts at Abercrombie.
- CPC Project Updates are listed below:

#### **Construction of Bocce Courts BID:**

- The official bid is out for construction of the courts. There will be a site visit on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Bids are due Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> by 1pm. DPW has been very helpful with the project. Abutter letters were sent out.

#### **Rocky Mountain Trail Maintenance Project**

- Christy is working on the Notice of Intent/Massachusetts Endangered Species Act for this project. Christy is meeting with Mitch the City's Conservation Agent tomorrow to review the Rocky Mountain Trail project applications.

#### Beacon Fountains

- Fountains have been delivered and will be installed in conjunction with the Bocce project.

#### Greenfield High School Track

- Ian and Christy will be meeting this month to review the layout and then schedule the work with Greenfield High School and Department of Public Works for American with Disabilities access.

#### Site Amenities (concrete)

- Order is in for two ping-pong tables, foosball, and two cornhole sets.

#### Pickleball

- Christy will schedule a meeting to set dates for public meetings and feedback on designs.
- Myrt will post on Pickleball Facebook about the CPC Meeting March 21 5:30pm hybrid.
- Myrt will ask why is the pickleball group not fundraising?

#### Green River Park:

- Christy shared about the concerns raised about shared use of the basketball court and pickleball users. Some citizens are concerned about the use of the courts for pickleball and not basketball. Christy has assured them that the pickleballers will move if anyone wants to use the basketball courts. The Commission has discussed in the past about posting a sign.
- Dan made a motion to accept the draft paper sign that clarified rules for the basketball court for use as basketball and if no one present to play basketball, it can be used for pickleball. Myrt seconded. All voted in favor.
- Heather will post about park users keeping their dog with the owner in the dog park. This has been raised an issue as a few pickleball users leave their dogs unattended in the dog park while playing pickleball.

#### 7:03pm New Business:

##### Summer 2024 Events and Programs

- With our early spring, people are using the parks and are eager to sign up for spring and summer programs. Recreation Department staff are anxiously awaiting the brochure arrival to share. April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the opening of camp registrations.
- Staffing – Christy did post the summer positions and has several applications to sort through. Ben and Shayla attended Greenfield High School career fair last week and did their best to recruit summer hires. Several applications were passed out and turned in. This level of interest in summer jobs is very helpful.

### **Movies in the Park**

- Kelly confirmed the summer movie selections before her leave.

### **Fireworks**

- Fireworks sponsorship and vendors are slowly coming in with approximately \$6,300 in so far. Christy needs to confirm the Independence Day musical lineup.

### **Mini Golf April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

- As of now, only three of the 18 holes have been sold. Heather called and emailed all her contacts however there were no more bites. Myrt will sponsor a hole and try Tito's and Greenfield Glass. Dan will make more calls and contact Current Electric. Masons are also considering it. Christy try calling Davenport's. Heather contact PV2, Wild Roots, Brad's and Bonnie B's.
- Christy has not received the layout but the Mini Golf vendor is working on it.
- Christy has confirmed a vendor for hot dog/hamburgers and fried dough.
- Commissioners and other volunteers are needed on both days.
- The current Friday plan is that the vendor will arrive and will assess the space based on his layout. From, 2:30-3:00pm 2-4 volunteers are needed to help set up, 5:00pm complete set up, 5:30-9pm Open – will need 2-4 people for door help – taking money, clicker, etc.
- The current plan for Saturday is 10am-4pm Open – will need 2-4 volunteers for door help – taking money, clicker, etc., 4pm-5:30pm 2-4 people to break down and pack up. Myrt, Dan, Heather and Barb are all available to volunteer at MiniGolf.

### **Cornhole May 4<sup>th</sup> at Court Square**

- Christy is attending the licensing commission meeting on March 19 for the CornHole fundraiser and permission for Pioneer and Hitchcock brewers. Danica any updates? People have been talking about it on social media but I am not sure how many are registered.

### **Mutts and Mayhem**

- Sponsorship so far is \$850 and one vendor for a total of \$880 so far. 4 are registered with 3 large dogs and 1 small dog.
- Heather and Christy will meet on the details of the Mutts and Mayhem event.

### **Triathlon**

- Registration is live with 38 registered so far.

### **Juneteenth**

- Christy is meeting tomorrow with Mpress on Juneteenth planning.



### **Pride 2024**

- Christy is meeting tomorrow with Pride Committee members about vending and closure of Miles Street for Pride.

### **Park Operations and Updates**

#### **Swim Area:**

- It will take several days for interior cleanup. Many tables and grills need replacement.

#### **Hillside Park:**

- During one of the Greenfield Recreation basketball celebrations, Christy invited the Mayor to attend. She was pleasantly overwhelmed with positive feedback from families about Greenfield Recreation programs and offerings as she moved from table to table. While she and Christy were debriefing about the event and comments, a parent approached her and requested if she would look into repairing the basketball court at Hillside. After sharing the value and importance of this space to our community she said she would look into it. She did, she went the next day, took pictures and saw how many people were using the court and sent emails right away to Christy and Marlo. To make a long story short, over the next several days, with emails and estimates, Christy is happy to share that the Mayor is putting forward a \$8,000 financial order to repave the courts by DPW this spring! Wow! Christy did share that this had been on our DPW park replace list for years and Christy is grateful!

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Fireworks Fundraiser
- Swim Area Operations

**Next Meeting Date:** April 11 at 6pm; Heather take notes as Barb is out of town.

**Adjourn** – Motion made by: Dan

Seconded by: Myrt

## Green River Swimming Area Capital Upgrades



Replacement of 21 of the 50 tables at the river.

Cost: \$33,843 with shipping

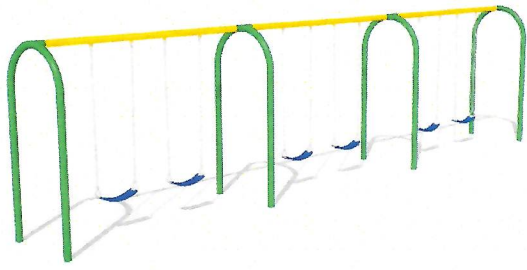


Grills

Replacing 11 of 35 grills

Cost: \$3,566





Replacement of old swings at Newton School

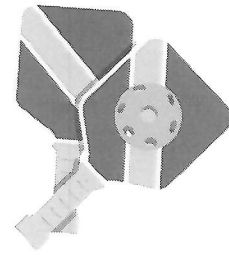
Cost \$11,788

Total \$49,197

Requested amount \$50,000

Requested amount with Swim Area Boardwalk Replacement (\$17,000)

Grand Total: \$67,000



# Shared Court Rules:

If the basketball court is not being used, anyone can play either basketball or pickleball. If a basketball player wants to play; they have priority of the basketball court and the other players should relinquish the court. *will*

