

**Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, April 14, 2022  
6PM**

**Attending:**

- Christy Moore, Barbara Zaccheo, Donna DuSell, Heather Valenta, Mary Phillips, and Myrt Jacquay. Absent: Danica Hochstetler and Jennifer Hoffman.

**6:06pm Call to Order**

**6:07pm Review of Previous Meeting Minutes-**

- Heather made a motion to approve January, February and March 2022 meeting minutes with edits as listed by Donna to January 13, 2022 minutes: page 5 replace “especially people of color” with “is needed especially for underserved communities,” in February 10, 2022 minutes: page 2 strike “did an excellent job and” and in March 17, 2022 minutes: page one replace “although” with “and” in first bullet point under Skate Park.” Myrt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- The following are the carryover action items:
- Christy will connect with Comcast on the Teen Center internet connection.
- 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 just bought at auction) in Highland Park- check in on this in Spring 2022.
- Barb follow up with Walker “Kim” Boas about Highland Park trail maintenance. (see December 2021 minutes for details on this.)
- Barb email to Christy her completion of Ethics training and also the one pager.
- Mural at GCC Downtown- Christy reached out to real estate agent and Greenfield Community College to be sure it’s preserved when the building is sold. It’s now part of the disclosures so any future Buyer will preserve the mural.

**6:17pm Public Input/Discussion**

- Christy was pleased with Brad’s direction of conversation at Skate Park designs and interface with abutters.
- Abutters never called the Mayor’s office about the Skate Park. Part of the frustration by Abutters was a feeling of not receiving a letter via US mail (tough to coordinate with Assessor vacancy) however there was outreach via radio, The Recorder, social media, City website, Recreation Commission Meetings, and City Council meetings. There was also a change in location per Mayor’s office request due to conversations with

downtown businesses that wanted parking closer to Main Street. For the April 26 final design meeting, emails will be sent to all April 7 skate park design attendees.

### **6:21pm Director's Report**

#### **Summer Programs Brochure Update:**

- Brochure is online and is currently being printed. Christy shared the paper version.

#### **PARC Grant/Skate Park:**

- The Recreation Department held its first public meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> for the design and attendance was very good. There was great discussion on what kind of features and style the skaters are looking for. Abutters were in attendance sharing disappointment in the location and concerns about noise. Brad led discussions around landscaping and earthwork design to respond to concerns about skate park noise as well as additional benefits of beautifying the current site. Previous decibel readings were shared from the prior Art In Place grant application. See chart.
- The borings for the GeoTechnical Report were taken on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The report will be available in approximately two weeks. This is a really tight timeline in relation to the design as there may be a technical reason that something may need to change based on the report. Soil has been found to be silty so won't drain well and has to be 4 feet below grade; therefore site prep and drainage will cost more than expected.
- Christy is reaching out about various shade structures including solar.
- The second design meeting will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm to share the final concept with the community- Commissioners are encouraged to attend this meeting.

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

- The Recreation Department is still onboarding a group leader for Four Corners GRASP location. There is a glitch in the background record check system that we are waiting on a "ticket" to be solved. After this software problem is resolved, the Department should be able to officially onboard another Group Leader.

#### **AmeriCorps:**

- Thanks to the follow through on Donna's part, Kelly and Christy met with Matt Ashby from Dial Self who is the AmeriCorps coordinator for the area. The Recreation Department will be applying for 1-2 AmeriCorps matches for after school coordinator positions. There is an application that Christy needs to complete and then the hope is that people with experience working with children will apply. Matt did share that they have had fewer applicants apply as well. The AmeriCorps program runs from late August to early June.

**School Food Service Program:**

- Christy is working with the new Food Service Director, Greta Shwachman about summer meal programs. Greta is looking to expand the meal sites back to pre-pandemic as there will not be drive through options this year. Christy and Greta have a meeting setup at the end of the month to discuss park locations and potential kickoff event. Greta is very excited to collaborate with parks and recreation.

**Capital FY23:**

- No Recreation Department requests were put forward for FY23. Christy is currently working to move the ADA compliant bocce courts project forward as well as the skate park project in addition to summer programs so this works out ok for this year.

**Budget FY23 Update:**

- The budget book has been released and is available online- designed this year by Caitlin VonSchmidt. Christy shared a copy with Commissioners.
- The Recreation Department is funded at the same level as FY22 with 3 Full Time Equivalent positions and adding on Part Time Equivalent for the teen center/middle school after school program. Total budget is \$206,728. Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> is the Ways and Means budget meeting and final budget vote will be next month.
- Barb suggested listening to April 11 Ways and Means Finance Director's report starting at ten minutes and Christy suggested reading the Budget Book online too.

**6:45pm New Business**

**Summer 2022**

**Camp Registration so far at Green River Swim Area:**

	Total				
	Enrolled	Spaces	% Full	2022	2021
Discovery	127	200	64%	25/w k	15/w k
Sizzlers	195	240	81%	30/ wk	25/w k

LIT	71	120	59%	15/w k	10/w k
OVERALL	393	560	70%		

**Registration Updates so far:**

Learn to Play Tennis - 1

Start Smart Soccer - 3

Golf Clinic - 1

Co-Ed Softball - 11 teams

Start Smart Baseball - 8

Tee Ball – 22

Buddy Baseball - 1

Buddies - 1

Home Alone Safety - 1

REC the NIGHT- Kickball Tournament - 7 Lucky Catch - 11 Paint Night – 12

**Event Update:**

- May 7<sup>th</sup>: Soapbox Race – registration deadline date is May 1 and minimum number of racers is 25. If there are less than 25 racers, the event will be canceled. So far there are 10 racers registered- most are youth and from out of state.
- Sadly, no one attended the April 10 Build Day.
- There is another build day on April 30 from 2-4pm at Court Square.
- The Greenfield Soapbox Race team has raised almost \$5,000 through sponsorships and registrations so far, that number is before expenses are taken out. Donna, Mik and Dan are working hard on this fundraiser for the Independence Day fireworks.
- A second run of posters have been ordered and will be picked up tomorrow
- Dan has secured one four wheeler to bring the carts up the hill and is working to find a second one for the event.
- Mik is doing a lot of personal outreach, but Donna, Mik and Dan are also thinking about an exit strategy if there are not enough racers registered. This determination will be made after the April 30 build party.
- John Howland at Greenfield Savings Bank is working to get volunteer sign ups for the event.
- Donna spoke with Amber Ortiz and the Marine Corps League about vending at this and the Mutts event, Amber sounded very interested but has not yet signed up.
- Mik has also reached out to vendors but has not found anyone who is available.

- Franklin County Tech Students will be making the special prizes and have been offered an honorarium of \$50 per prize based on Rachel Katz' feedback last year.
- Mik reached out to Caitlin Von Schmidt about help with marketing via Positively Greenfield a week ago and has not heard back. Caitlin did agree to be an announcer.
- Myrt suggested sharing the soapbox cars if they are pre-made and just need racers. He'd enjoy racing one and would make improvements in future years- just takes a lot of inertia to build the first one. Donna will follow up.
- Heather is headed to Northampton this weekend and volunteered to post Greenfield Soap Box Derby race posters up- Christy provided a small stack.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Mutts and Mayhem – Webpage and Registration are active. So far 4 registered. Heather, Myrt and Virginia are working really hard to make this event happen!
  - Obstacles are being built and no help is needed on them at this time. Heather bought a stencil.
  - So far, vendors have paid \$90 and sponsorships are at \$1,950.
  - Mary asked if a fireworks fundraiser table could be set up.
  - Heather asked Christy to ask for bike tire donations when she meets with Bicycle World for the Triathlon.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> Fireworks with July 5<sup>th</sup> Rain Date –
  - Vendors are coming in totaling \$2,100 so far and \$3,100 so far in sponsorships.
  - Christy is still seeking fundraising ideas for Independence Day fireworks totaling \$18,000. Danica and Mary will meet with Christy on a cornhole tournament and possibly on the Common with a date and link with Hawks and Reeds. Games take 5 hours for 30 teams with 4 boards- could be shortened with six boards.
  - Christy checked in that the week before July 1 still works for street collection. No one enjoys asking for money this way however it does raise \$300-600.
  - Donna checked in with Greenfield Garden Cinema about providing Miss Firecracker DVD. The cost for licensing is several hundred dollars so not a great fundraiser despite Isaac's generous offer of a \$1 rental fee for the cinema.
  - Donna reminded that it might be time for Christy and Kelly to talk about the Fortin Family award announced at Independence Day fireworks.
- August 7<sup>th</sup>: Triathlon – Registration is open and sponsors are coming in. So far \$50 in cash and Health New England confirmed for \$1,000. Trader Joe's will donate a gift basket.
- June 5<sup>th</sup> - Community Safety Day is coming along. Christy shared the flier with Commissioners.

- Movies in the park series – Sponsorship is secure for \$1,000 Franklin First Federal Credit Union. There will be a hot dog vendor at the movies and Christy is working to find funding for a port a potty. The licensing fees can be in the hundreds of dollars so this adds up.

**Swimming Area:**

- The Department is advertising for lifeguards, gate, concessions, facility attendants, tennis and camp.
- Due to staffing concerns, the Green River Swim Area will not be open 7 days a week until June 18th. GRASP duties are not done until June 16.
- Christy will follow up with the DPW and Health department about water testing.

**Future Agenda Items**

- CPA potential project suggestions
- Abercrombie Field and parking arrangements for baseball practices and games given new ownership of former Greenfield Center School and renovation/development
- North Severance Park: The Youth Football League has requested to use the park for practice. They would also like to place a shed on site for equipment. Sometime this spring, Jeff Bengston and I will meet on site to determine the best location for a temporary storage unit. Need to confirm location and size of unit.
- Christy will check if a port a potty could be rented for the summer Beacon Field movies- MJ Adams may know of funds for this.
- Christy reach out to local manufacturers for donations for the robotics program.
- Parks tour for Commissioner

**Next Meeting Date:** May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

**7:39pm Adjourn** – Motion made by: Myrt                      Seconded by: Heather

Local Levels	Decibel Chart	Comparison Sounds
	140	Shotgun Blast
	130	Jet Engine 100' away
	120	Rock Concert
	110	Car horn, Snow Blower
	100	Blow Dryer, Subway, Chainsaw
	90	Motorcycle, Lawnmower
Montague Skate Park peak noise: 88 Db after a skateboard became airborne and struck pavement	80	Factory, Noisy Restaurant, Vacuum
Riddell Street sidewalk 270' from proposed Skate Park, Passing Car, 71.2 Passing Truck, 73.3 Montague Skate Park, General Skating: 72 Db	70	Car, Alarm Clock, City Traffic
	60	Conversation, Dishwasher
Montague Skate Park Ambient Noise: 54 Db (Wind off of the river)	50	Moderate Rainfall
Riddell Street sidewalk 270' from proposed Skate Park, Ambient Noise 45.1 Db	40	Refrigerator
	30	Whisper, Library
	20	Watch ticking