

Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting
June 16, 2022 6pm
Greenfield Youth Center, 20 Sanderson Street

Attending: Myrt Jaquay, Christy Moore, Heather Valenta, Donna DuSell, and Barb Zaccheo

Call to Order: 6:05pm

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes from May 2022

- Mary sent a draft to Christy and Christy will review and share with the Commission.
- The following are carryover action items from the April 2022 meeting minutes:
- 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.
- For the April 26 final design meeting, emails will be sent by Christy to all April 7 skate park design attendees.
- The second design meeting will be April 26th at 7:00pm to share the final concept with the community- Commissioners are encouraged to attend this meeting.
- 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.
- 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.
- Danica and Mary will meet with Christy on a cornhole tournament.
- Donna reminded that it might be time for Christy and Kelly to talk about the Fortin Family award announced at Independence Day fireworks.
- Mary asked if a fireworks fundraiser table could be set up at SoapBox derby.

- Heather asked Christy to ask for bike tire donations for soap box derby when she meets with Bicycle World for the Triathlon.
- Christy will follow up with the DPW and Health department about water testing.

Public Input:

- Pickleballers want more courts.

Director's Report

PARC Grant- Skate Park

- The Planning Board meeting was on June 2, they approved the design with two conditions: 1) install a bike rack and 2) create a crosswalk for pedestrians. Christy has coordinated with the Department of Public Works, Planning Director and City Engineer.
- \$35,000 reimbursement request was submitted to the State for the design portion of the grant. Procurement and Christy have been working on the bid documents for the project.
- Christy hopes to have the project listed for bidding at the end of this month with a site visit in July and submission due at the end of July. Christy is still finalizing the schedule.

GRASP (Greenfield After School Program):

- Today was the final day of GRASP. It was a joyful week with a total of fourteen 4th graders graduating from Four Corners and four from Federal Street. It was a very busy yet rewarding week. Recreation staff is definitely ready for a break.

AmeriCorps:

- Christy has one application but they did not meet the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) requirements so she will continue to offer the opening in case anyone applies late. It is doubtful but worth a try.

Environment Justice Forum:

- June 6th – this session went well with the Human Rights Commission. Thank you to Barb Zaccheo and Susan Worgaftik for attending – your support was much appreciated. Christy's takeaways were that we have potential to create future recreation and nature opportunities as our capital plan demonstrates but we need to determine location and funding and routine maintenance (staffing). The lack of public transportation continues to be a struggle for Greenfield as well as the lack of representation of people of all ethnicities and backgrounds at meetings or serving on boards or commissions.

Lifeguards:

- The Department is in much better shape than a month ago. Christy has recruited several new guards so she should have 10 for the summer. Although several

have multiple vacations which makes the schedule very challenging. Kelly has been amazing, as always, trying to juggle the puzzle pieces together.

Camp Training:

- CPR and First Aid and summer camp training is next week. Christy is still looking for two more camp staff.

Highland Park Deer:

- Christy provided an update on the posting to Facebook about a deer that was attacking dogs while walking in Highland Park.

Program Supervisor Position:

- Position is posted and Christy is hopeful she will find qualified candidates.

Storage Issues:

- Christy asked for ideas on where the Department could store the trailer and Winter Carnival/Mutts and Mayhem/etc. materials at Riddell Street by September. The Commission brainstormed the ideas of a shipping container, Kennametal, bottom of Wisdom Way, and Hillside park storage unit.

Vandalism at Hillside Park (and on a house and car):

- Christy worked with two residents to clean up vulgar and racist vandalism on June 11 at Hillside Park.

Old Business

Nancy Hazard letter about Highland Park invasive species removal:

- Donna updated the letter from last month to customize for Nancy Hazard. Myrt pointed out a typo. Heather made a motion to send in the letter for Nancy Hazard to have permission to remove invasive species from Highland Park, Myrt seconded and all voted in favor. Nancy will share with the Conservation Commission and will ask for their support as well.

New Business

Summer 2022

- Camp is 97% Full for Discovery and Sizzlers.
- LIT has some openings.
- Tennis Lessons – the Department still does not have an instructor – may need to cancel the classes next week for both adult and youth.
- Pickleball Tournament – Christy shared information about the tournament- they need to fill out facility use form and provide insurance.
- 3V3 Basketball Tournament – Christy will cancel for the summer – unless she finds someone to organize as the Program position will be vacant.

- Rec the Night – Christy may need to cancel unless she finds someone to continue the program until she fills the Program Supervisor position.
- Summer rentals – super busy with swim areas, Green River Park, Energy Park – may need help with the rentals throughout the summer.

Swimming Area:

- Open 7 days a week starting on Saturday.

Special Events:

- May 22nd: **Mutts and Mayhem** – Thanks to Myrt, Virginia, and Heather- incredible event. The participants wanted the heats to be spread out, they wanted a map, 32 participants, and latecomers not allowed. A very successful event and very fun. Around \$1,475 raised for the Dog Park minus the timer, etc.
- June 1st **Cornhole Tournament** – It went really well. Around \$900 raised for Fireworks.
- June 5th - **Community Safety Day** – well received, two helicopters participated.
- **Movies in the park series** – next movie June 24th Sing 2
- June 25th – Summer Camp Reunion
- July 1st **Fireworks** with July 5th Rain Date –
 - Fortin Award – Christy shared nomination ideas. Myrt made a motion to award the Fortin Award to Greening Greenfield, Heather seconded and all voted in favor.
 - Share poster
- July 11 – Camp Kid Again – summer camp for adults 5:30-7:30pm
- August 7th: **Triathlon** – moving forward with tri committee.

Open Discussion

Community Preservation Act Commission on June 1 attended by Donna. Next meeting is on June 23.

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 Commissioners

Next Meeting Date: July 21st at 6pm

Adjourned at 7:45pm– Motion made by: Heather Seconded by: Myrt