

**City of Greenfield  
Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, January 13, 2022  
6pm**

**Attending:**

Christy Moore, Myrt Jaquay, Donna DuSell, Barb Zaccheo, Danica Hochstetler, and Mary Phillips. Guests: Wisty Rorabacher and Nancy Hazard

**Action items:**

- All listed in yellow.

**6:09pm Call to Order**

**6:14pm Public Input**

- Barb shared that there were questions about the lighting at the dog park and Christy confirmed that she submitted a work order to DPW.

**6:15pm Review of December 9, 2021 Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

- Myrt made a motion, Danica seconded for the minutes to be approved with no edits. Motion passed unanimously. 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.
- The Department is still searching for staff for both GRASP sites including coordinators and group leaders-Christy will check out AmeriCorps for possible employees- their cycle for hiring is the same each year and they are paid \$9k/year.
- 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.)

**Recreation Director Report**

**Skate Park- PARC Grant:**

- Eric Twarog, City's Planning Director recorded the ANR Plan of the Chapman Davis Street Lot on January 3rd. ANR Plan: Book 150, Page 20. Christy has contacted Nate Tripp from Gruber & Tripp, LLC to record the deed changes at the registry of deeds. This will be the final recording to submit to the PARC Grant. This needs to be completed

by March 1. The City's Procurement Officer is reviewing designers and calling references. Christy hopes to have a designer hired by the end of the month.

**GRASP:**

- Christy, Kelly and Loren are still providing childcare at two sites at Four Corners Discovery School and Federal Street School. Staffing updates: they have on-boarded two new employees for the program; and is losing one for other work; and currently has one out sick. Current staff are amazing and are working so hard to provide a fun, safe place for children to grow and develop. Several parents have shared that while their child was away from the program recovering, all they said was how much they missed after school. A true testament that what GRASP is providing is so essential! GRASP continues to work closely with the School nursing staff and the City Health Department in regards to COVID.

**Eagle Scout Project**

- Christy met with Andy Bostrom this week about his project. He built two park benches and repaired the footbridge in Highland. He shared that he was "very proud to take wooden boards and turn them into benches." He felt especially proud as members of the community thanked him for providing a place to rest and enjoy the natural beauty of the area. He anticipates a spring ceremony with his troop. He did use the special diamond hardware connectors Myrt suggested on the benches.

**Basketball:**

- Basketball is in its second week. The program has had a few COVID cases, due to the school pool testing. Families have called right away and the Recreation Department has consulted with the Health Department. To date, here are the enrollment numbers:

Pee Wee Monday 5:30 - 9 players and 2 coaches

Pee Wee Thursday 5:30 - 11 players and 2 coaches

Pee Wee Thursday 6:45 - 12 players and two coaches

3/4 Tuesday 5:30 - 12 players and 2 assistant coaches with Linda

3/4 Tuesday 6:45 - 11 players and 2 assistant coaches with Linda

5/6 Wednesday - 9 players and 1 assistant coach with Mireille

Total Players 64. Total Coaches 13

### **Triathlon:**

- Held the first meeting of the year recently. Working on sanctioning application, website updates, registration updates, confirmed the timer for the event, and confirming dates for tri training and one day clinic.

### **Superintendent Christine DeBarge:**

- Finally able to hold our initial meeting albeit virtual but so nice to connect in person. Great meeting to share our offerings, needs, and goals. The Recreation Department has a wonderful relationship with the school department and Superintendent DeBarge wants to make sure that continues. She will continue to support in providing safe and fun programs for the students. She looks forward to the Winter Carnival.

### **6:23pm Old Business**

Trails Update- Barb – any follow up in regards to the trail concern.

### **New Business**

#### **East side of Green River Swim Area and along the river bank: Project to Protect Native Plants**

**Guests:** Wisty Rorabacher and Nancy Hazard

- Presentation by Wisty Rorabacher who is seeking our support on a project to remove invasive species at the Green River Swim Area to help preserve the natural ecology of the area. See handout shared entitled “Care for Forest on Northeast Side of the Green River Swimming and Recreation Area.”
- Knotweed, goutweed, multiflora rose, and bittersweet are choking out the wildflowers.
- Nancy acknowledged all the signage and maps of the east side of the Green River Swim Area.
- Want an education program and 45 minutes/week for families to remove the invasive species.
- Wisty has taken this to the Conservation Commission as well.
- Requesting a vote of support to move forward.
- Nancy- interested in river banks- remove knotweed and replace with native trees and shrubs. Andy Fiske of CT River Valley nonprofit has no money now however Nick Fuller did a Green River assessment.
- Christy says Nancy and Wisty are very committed and have lots of experience with City projects. It will make the GSA look better.
- Mary suggested jail inmates, GHS, GCC and service learning for this project- botany, environmental education, sustainable agriculture, etc.
- Donna suggested the Recreation Commission write a letter of support.

- Christy shared the pdf of the project with Commissioners.
- Mary made a motion to support the project, Myrt seconded and all voted in favor.

### **Winter Carnival:**

- Posters will be going up tomorrow.
- Brochures will be back on Tuesday.
- Website is being updated.
- VolunteerSpot should be live tomorrow. Need Rec Com help especially with Parade of Lights. Will need a coordinator this year as Rick will be setting up for Cribbage during the parade. Heather can offer the help of six Road Marshalls.
- Sunday at the Field and Traffic Help with Olaf.
- Nick of GCTV and Jonathan are working on a video for Winter Carnival. No StoryCorps from the Senior Center- sadly no volunteers.
- Atlas is hired for fireworks on Friday night after the parade.
- LL Bean is making a sizable donation to Greenfield Winter Carnival- this was a follow up to Christy organizing the boot truck visit and retail popup this fall. Great news!
- Wormtown will also donate.
- Keg Pull registration will be up and running next week.

### **Summer 2022**

#### **Reminder of Important Dates:**

- May 7<sup>th</sup>: Soapbox Derby starting at noon
- May 21<sup>st</sup>: Staff Orientation
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Mutts and Mayhem (Heather called in at 7:15pm) 11am
- June 4<sup>th</sup>: Swim Area opening day
- July 1<sup>st</sup>: Fireworks (Friday)- only Atlas bid came back. Pyrotechnico have increased their budget minimums for shows due to supply chain and increasing costs. At this time, Greenfield fireworks for Independence Day and Winter Carnival were not enough.
- July 2<sup>nd</sup>: (Saturday) Fireworks Rain Date (Atlas is completely booked for this Saturday night) so Christy is working with them on a reverse rain date June 30 (commission not in favor of this) or July 5, Tuesday if possible or following weekend.
- August 7<sup>th</sup>: Triathlon

#### **TBD:**

Movies in the Park  
 Rec the Night  
 Energy Park Concerts  
 Camp Reunion  
 Bike Safety Day

### **7:15pm Mutts and Mayhem**

- Heather updated that she is working on sponsorships.
- Virginia and Heather started a sponsorship letter draft and will provide Christy a list to send it to.

### **Budget FY23**

- Christy shared a few versions for the Mayor's office and shared them with the Commission. Mary made a motion to approve the Full Request, Myrt seconded and all voted in favor.

### **Open Discussion**

#### **YMCA**

- Phelicia Howland reached out as the YMCA is developing their Strategic Plan and would like input on how the Y can help meet the needs of the community.
- They would like to know about the needs of Franklin County, the Recreation Department's impression of the Y, and what the Recreation Department thinks the community needs the most that the Y can make an impact. As well as if (both the Recreation department and the YMCA) had unlimited funds, what is the best use of those funds- the Sky's the limit. Looking for your comments to share.
- Meeting will be next Thursday in the morning.
- Donna says financial support for swimming lessons and lifeguards is needed especially for underserved communities.
- Mary would like to see a swim team back again.
- Christy: Community Center with indoor/outdoor pool.
- Barb: bathrooms at all public parks.
- Barb: Christy look at capital budget.
- Mary: Cabins for Greenfield Swim Area
- Myrt: Pickleball courts.

#### **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 Christy will meet on site to determine the best location for a temporary storage unit.

#### **Laudable Productions**

- Wants a different moving company to move the stage. He wants to use April 15 to May 15 at Amherst College.

#### **Sign Request from community member Elizabeth Nett:**

- Citizen requested signup sheets for Pickleball. Other Pickleball players set up temporary courts on the basketball court near dog park. Christy is concerned about the administration's capacity to manage this facility use per her request.
- A comment was shared that Tennis courts are first come, first serve.

### **Future Agenda Items**

**CPA** – potential project suggestions

**Abercrombie Field** – Reminder – that we need to think about the parking arrangement before the spring.

- Christy will approach the Mayor about the Energy Park property boundary.
- Donna agreed to research the screening of movies at the Greenfield Garden Cinema as a future fundraiser for the Friends.
- Christy will check if a port a potty could be rented for the summer Beacon Field movies.
- Christy reach out to local manufacturers for donations for the robotics program.
- Parks tour for Commissioner
- Budget FY23
- Summer wage scale and positions (minimum wage goes up in January)

**Next Meeting Date:** February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

**Adjourn** – Motion made by: Myrt                      Seconded by: Mary

Meeting ended at 7:55pm Myrt and second by Mary.