

Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2022
6PM

Attending:

- Christy Moore, Barbara Zaccheo, Donna DuSell, Heather Valenta, and Myrt Jacquay

6:12pm Call to Order

6:13pm Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Barb had health concerns so didn't get to that yet. She will send the January, February, and March notes to Christy for review in early April.

6:14pm Public Input/Discussion

- None

6:15pm Director's Report

PARC Grant for Skate Park:

- The design contract has been awarded to Pillar Design Studio of Arizona and they've done many projects in Western Massachusetts. Christy has been working closely with Brad the Project Manager and Lead Designer and the City is moving forward full steam ahead. All materials have been uploaded for Brad's review and many questions have already been funneled through Recreation and Engineering Departments.
- Christy shared park updates and preliminary schedules. The first thing that needs to be scheduled are the borings for the GeoTechnical Report from GZA subcontractor.
- The Recreation Department will be holding its first public meeting on April 7th. The Recreation Department is working on the flier for promotion as well as social media postings. All materials must be approved by the City for release. Commissioners are asked to please hold April 7th and April 26th at 7pm at the second floor of Sanderson Street on their calendars for the two public meetings.
- The surveying really delayed the start of this project so Christy feels behind but Brad is confident the City can meet the timeline with all the materials that the Recreation Department has already sent him.

GRASP (Greenfield After School Program):

- The Recreation Department had an inspection this past week. GRASP passed with rave reviews at both sites thanks to the hard work of Kelly preparing all the internal documents. EEC is now moving into unannounced visits as schools are completely reopened so GRASP must be prepared for a visit at any point. The inspector was very impressed with our organization at both sites.

- Staffing – GRASP still needs Site Coordinators. The Recreation Department is still working on recruiting new team members. GRASP has an interview tomorrow for another Group Leader. She was a former active member of our department's programs and is now of age to hire.

Capital FY23:

- The Recreation Department is still uncertain what was moved forward. Christy reached out to Ways and Means Chair, Councilor Forgey, for clarification per the Mayor's request.
- Councilor DeSorgher emailed about bocce courts and ADA improvements at Beacon Field. It's on hold until spring and possibly over summer- held up as DPW had other priorities like water main breaks, etc.

Budget FY23 Update:

- Christy was informed by the Mayor that several Citywide cuts were needed. Our new Program Supervisor II (would focus on camps and GRASP full time) and Teen Center Coordinator (half time) have been cut from the budget as well as other staffing cuts from other departments. Christy believes in all new positions but she is not certain. Christy asked for clarification in regards to the half time Teen Center Coordinator that is in the current budget; as this request is status quo of FY22 budget.
- April 19 5:30pm is a possible Ways and Means meeting for the Recreation Department?

Schools: Superintendent Christine DeBarge:

- There is an upcoming meeting on Monday, March 21st in regards to starting an after school program at Greenfield Middle School. Christy made it very clear that she would meet but that there were no commitments due to staffing cuts within our department. She still asked to meet.

Stage Rentals

- Several requests have come in and Christy is working to coordinate with DPW.

6:38pm New Business

Summer 2022

Sports:

- Tennis Lessons – The Recreation Department needs an instructor if anyone knows anyone. The Department ordered new lines and two new nets for the year. Greenfield Tennis Association will cover half the expense of the lines. Christy will email Donna to ask for help to recruit the Turners Falls tennis coach- he has taught in the past for Greenfield Recreation.
- 3x3 Basketball Tournament at Hillside Park– The Department is pleased to announce the return of this event as it was canceled in 2020.
- Golf lessons – The Department will offer lessons and clinics again.

- Start Smart Baseball & Soccer, Tee Ball and Buddy Baseball – will return this spring. Myrt made a motion and Heather seconded to increase fees by \$10 for tee ball (\$45/\$55) and \$5 for start smart (\$50/\$60) due to material costs. All voted in favor- motion carries. Christy will look into inventory of Buddy Baseball supplies.
- Pickleball – The Department will offer to learn to play and Todd Boynton will teach the class. Christy shared concern from citizen in regards to court availability as citizen is concerned about certain players monopolizing pickleball court time. Request wording for court etiquette/limiting play, etc.
- Basketball Clinic will return as well.
- Co-Rec Softball is back. There will be a meeting next week.

Soap Box Race Update:

- May 7th: Soapbox Race – deadline date: May 1 and minimum number of racers is 25.
- Build Days April 10 from 11am-1pm behind City Hall and Second Build Day April 30 2-4pm @Court Square.
- Thanks to Donna for attending Licensing to get permission for closure of the road and approval of the event- both were secured.
- Sponsorship: \$2,500 secured from Greenfield Savings Bank and further sponsor outreach is underway.
- Facebook paid ad and email outreach is underway. Other marketing includes first run of posters completed, website updated (race info, sponsor, racer, and vendor forms)
- Hay is secured.
- Team leaders needed for Top of hill, Registration and Merchandise, Stage manager, Finish Line/Cart Wrangler, Inspection, and Parking/Vendors.
- Christy also suggested going through Amber Ortiz who is licensed to sell hot dogs on Main Street.

Mutts and Mayhem Update:

- May 22nd: Mutts and Mayhem – Heather and Virginia have been working hard on the event details. We have timer confirmed, the race registration platform is RunSignUp and we are preparing the info for this now. We are meeting again tomorrow. Linda is working on website updates. Heather will organize build weekends and also reach out to sponsors.
- Donna will reach out to the Marine Corps vendor who sold hot dogs and hamburgers as well. Christy also suggested going through Amber Ortiz who is licensed to sell hot dogs on Main Street.
- Heather asked Christy for the maps of the Green River Swim Area for the Mutts and Mayhem event.

July 1st Fireworks Update:

- July 1st Fireworks with July 5th Rain Date – Vendors are coming in and some sponsorship.
- Vendor from Connecticut with two trains for rides at Beacon and the Middle School is interested in coming back.
- Donna confirmed that PayPal donations for the fireworks with funds to the Friends of Recreation general account.
- Christy asked if there were any new fundraiser ideas.
- Donna has been discussing with Greenfield Garden Cinema about a fundraiser.

Triathlon Update:

- August 7th: Triathlon – Christy feels very behind on this. Christy has not opened registration nor completed sanction application yet. We meet on Monday.

Community Safety Day Update:

- June 5th - Community Safety Day – working with Police, Fire, Health Department, Kiwanis bike rodeo, and Recreation to pull together a new event. June is safety month and this week is Recreation Department safety week with Home Alone class this week, babysitting this week and the bike rodeo is now part of community safety day! More info to come as the event will include live demos, booths and information with the bike rodeo.

Summer Camp

- Kelly released the camp enrollment packet to our VIP families this week. There will be 25 slots in Discovery, 30 in Sizzlers and 15 in LIT. The Department will offer early and late care again as well. **Christy share packet with Donna.**

Swim Area

- Christy met with the Department of Public Works and Health Department about the water sampling. The Department is waiting to hear back from the State on this issue.
- Christy met with DPW and the summer opening of facilities. Christy will have everything open this season including water fountains.

Open Discussion

Ethics Training

- **All Commissioners need to sign a one pager from Donna and Barb needs to send in her certificate of completion as well.**

Future Agenda Items

- Mural at GCC Downtown- Christy be sure it's preserved when the building is sold
- 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.
- Abercrombie Field – Reminder – 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)

7:40pm Next Meeting Date: April 14 at 6pm

Adjourn – Motion made by: Heather Seconded by: Myrt
All in favor.