

Greenfield Recreation Commission
20 Sanderson Street City Offices and Greenfield Community Youth Center
August 14, 2024@6pm

Attending:

- Myrt Jaquay, Christy Moore, Donna Dusell (6:09pm arrival and Chairperson after 6:09pm), Heather Valenta (Chairperson 6:03-6:09pm), and Barbara Nichols Zaccheo.

Chairperson's Statement:

- The Recreation Commission is not recording this meeting, if any other persons present are doing the same you must notify the chairperson at this time.

6:03pm Call to Order by Chairperson:

Roll Call of Commissioners:

- Present Guests- None
- Present Commissioners- Heather Valenta, Myrt Jaquay, Donna DuSell, and Barbara Nichols Zaccheo
- Absent Commissioners- Dan Piasecki, Mary Phillips, Danica Hochstetler

6:06pm Public Comment:

- No discussion or comments will be entertained unless requested upon by the Chairperson of the Commission.
- The Chairperson has no public comments from Guests today.

6:07pm Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Draft March 14, 2024 and June 13, 2024 meeting minutes were emailed before the meeting.
- Myrt made a motion to approve both minutes with no edits, Heather seconded. All voted in favor.

6:10 PM Director's Report:

Office:

- The department has been super busy this past month. It has been more challenging being down a full time staff member in the office. The Department made an offer for a Youth Center Coordinator position yesterday. Fingers are crossed that the offer is accepted.
- The goal is that the Youth Center will be up and running the as soon as possible- it may be delayed depending on the new hire's schedule.

Greenfield After School Program (GRASP) Hiring:

- The department is advertising and recruiting GRASP Group Leaders and Rec Room staff. There will be a high staff turnover this year as most of last year's staff is starting college. The Department has confirmed that the site coordinator at Federal Street School will return; however there is an opening at Four Corners Site.

Park and Program Updates:

Summer Camp:

- It is hard to believe this is the last week left of summer camp. Tomorrow the Ice Cream Emergency truck will visit as an end of summer treat.
- Staffing has been challenging with vacations and absences for the last couple of weeks. The Department was able to onboard three new staff for the last two weeks of camp which was wonderful.
- The playground tree damage and failed water tests have been difficult.
- The Department served 601 campers this season for eight weeks! This is a very high number of registrants.

Sports Programs:

Field Hockey:

- Shayla is working with some parents to offer a new field hockey program to the fall lineup. It will be a new league for girls in grades 3-4 playing against other towns outside of Franklin County. The league will be starting in September with sign ups next month.

Start Smart

- This program finished up last night with 20 participants.

Tennis Lessons

- These lessons concluded with only 5 beginner and 2 intermediate – the Department is contemplating removing this as an offering next year.

Skateboard Lessons

- The skateboard lessons wrapped up with 9 beginners and 3 intermediate. Helmets were offered by Kiwanis Club to anyone who did not have one.

Co Rec Softball

- The softball playoffs are ongoing August 13-17 with a 10 seed bracket with double elimination.

Rec the Night:

- July 19th had the theme of water games and was super successful. Shayla had 12 registered and many new kids. The next one is scheduled for next week and Kickball is the theme.

Content Creator Workshop:

- The Content Creator Workshop with GCTV went really well. Shayla had 7 students for the program. Everyone was very engaged and had a great time. The students are eager to do it again. The Department may try and coordinate this with the new Youth Center Coordinator if possible during Rec Room.

- Donna suggested a collaboration with Cyber Seniors for the creation of a YouTube video- funded by the City of Greenfield for Greenfield Community College and the Greenfield Senior Center.

Mayor Walk:

- The Recreation Department had a small but great turnout for the first Walk with the Mayor in July. Heather may attend and Christy will attend at 6-7pm on August 15th at Green River Park. Christy and Heather will also check on the dog park fence repair completed by Hastie Fence and any damages at the Pickleball court.

Triathlon:

- The Triathlon had 265 athletes registered, almost 100 volunteers. The debrief meeting will be next month with the committee.
- Thank you to those who volunteered from the commission. It was a very successful event.
- Christy shared the Beverly June Burniske obituary and her family's impact on the local community and triathlon. The Nook award is given annually in memory of Beverly's husband and Beverly's obituary listed the Triathlon for donations- very generous and thoughtful.

Facility Rentals:

- There is a steady flow of rentals and group rate requests.
- Gaudium Galaxy wants startup funds to open a gaming center near Home Depot and is working through the Licensing process and the Recreation Department to sponsor a Beacon Field event to raise money to start the business on August 24.

6:27pm Old Business

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Projects:

- Highland Trail Improvements – The Local Conservation Commission approved the project. The department needs to add the Order of Conditions to the deed. Christy is waiting for final determination from NHESP (Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program). One July 22, the department submitted additional information that was requested. As of August 11th, additional information is needed for a determination to be issued. Christy needs to follow up for finer details to be submitted from AMC for the approval. The Department and Kim most likely will need to ask for a CPC contract extension and AMC extension.
- There are additional monies needed for the Registry of Deeds and Order of Conditions for straw wattles or socks to be placed in the area of work.

6:35pm New Business:

Highland Trail Mapping:

- On July 17th, Christy presented to the City Council an update on the trail mapping project. Christy shared two maps and project updates that were shared with the City Council. The Department now needs to review the trails, determine if any should be eliminated, consult conservation commission as well, decide on how to label the trails, determine if the Department would like to work with the Franklin County Land Trust to assist with any right of ways or easements as some of the trails are on private property, etc. **Christy needs to establish meetings to get this moving forward.**
- **Christy will reach out to Mary and Robbie Cohn about access to trails.**

Fall Soccer

- The first day will be September 7th at the Swimming Area for all divisions. Kara Younger from the YMCA called to say that they will not be offering fall soccer until they hire a new sports coordinator so our numbers may be higher. **If anyone knows any soccer officials please let Christy know.** Shayla has released the flyer and enrollment is coming in steadily for each division. Her league meeting is next week.

Halloween

- This holiday falls on a Thursday this year. So the Department would hold the Rag Shag Parade on the official day of Halloween.
- Myrt made a motion to hold the Rag Shag parade and Halloween festivities on October 31, 2024 at 4pm, Heather seconded. All voted in favor.

GRASP and REC Room:

- Enrollment packets for GRASP have been released and the first one was turned in this week. Meet and Greet for schools are Monday, August 26th.
- Rec Room packets – on hold until there is a new coordinator in place to manage the program. The Department has let families know that have inquired.

Donna DuSell

- Donna expressed concern about Christy's work hours, burnout, and suggested that it's time to find some relief. Christy confirmed that it's been tough on family life as well. Thanks from Christy to Donna and thanks from Myrt, Heather and Barb on behalf of the citizens for Christy's work. Christy will evaluate the budget and seek funding for a second Program Supervisor for Summer Camp and After School focus to relieve some of the program oversight from the Director and Assistant Director.

Future Agenda Items

- Budget and Staffing to prevent burnout

Next Meeting Date: Scheduled for Sept 25 at 6pm

7:10pm Adjourn – Motion made by: Myrt Seconded by: Donna

Executive Session May Be Called

*Please note that the list of topics was comprehensive at the time of posting, however, the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice. Posted in accordance with M.G.L.c 30A § 18-25.