

RECREATION COMMISSION
Greenfield Community Youth Center
October 20, 2022 6pm

ATTENDING:

- Donna DuSell, Danica Hochstetler , Joy Whitbeck, Heather Valenta, Christy Moore, and Barb Zaccheo

6:02pm Call to Order

6:03pm Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Christy is reviewing Mary's previous meeting minutes and Barb owes a number of previous meeting minutes- all to Christy by Monday, October 24.
- The following are carryover action items from September 2022:
 - Christy is working with the Department of Public Works to determine the best date to move all Swim Area supplies back to the building for storage.
 - In preparation for next season, Christy will be presenting a few changes for approval hopefully next few months in regards to the Swim Area refund policy language, weather closure policy language and age for unaccompanied youth.
 - Christy will work on updates to the Swim Area website (once approved) along with a revised registration form specifically for passes.
 - Christy and Kelly need to find Triathlon volunteers who can take over some of the more physical needs of the committee during race week as our members are aging and need to train new members. Any interest, or know anyone, please let Christy know.
 - Christy will attend the Licensing Commission meeting next week for Rag Shag parade permit and City Common approval.
 - Christy needs to contact judges and the GHS band but the Rag Shag plans are coming together.
 - Christy will check if DPW or Ginny Desorgher handle ADA for GHS track.
 - Christy research to match someday with Friends fund or revolving or youth money for projects proposed for Community preservation funds.
 - Brownfields Site renovation grant may come in November 2022 so Rec Dept supplies stored there will need to be moved.

6:04pm Public input

- Joy Whitbeck submitted a Community Preservation grant pre-application to add signage to Highland Park about rules and regulations and directional signs. Joy has also spoken with Nancy Hazard about signage for vernal pools. Wisty is interested in interpretive signs about nature (as she's spearheaded at Green River Swim Area) however this is not Joy's goal at this time.
- Joy was thinking of smaller scale signage, routed on a wood sign. Christy said there are more modern materials for park signage and we need to make sure all requirements for the American Disabilities Act are met.
- Christy mentioned that trail markings, cell phone app What3Words for emergencies, and kiosks have been in the Capital budget for many years- it's in the Master Plan, ADA

Transition Plan, OSRP Plan, etc. Christy will meet with FRCOG on costs on Monday and has also had discussions with the Mayor's Office.

- Trail grant is due February 1 annually and application packet opens November 30 annually.
- Joy will update the Facebook Group "Friends of Highland Park" on the status of the pre-application and start to work on the application and letters of support.
- Joy starts a job on Monday in Human Resources for the City of Greenfield.

6:27pm Update on Community Preservation Committee:

- Donna meets again next week for a regular meeting and discussion.
- Donna confirmed that there is \$20,000 for Recreation and \$20,000 for historic preservation, \$20,000 for open space, and \$20,000 for housing and then the remaining \$275,000 is flexible and at the discretion of the Committee.
- Brian Lamore submitted a pre-application for water fountains at Highland Park near tennis courts.
- Shattuck fitness cluster, Beacon bocce, and concrete site amenities were submitted by the Recreation Department.
- Amy Proetti submitted the pickleball pre-application. Christy looked at possibly Abercrombie however this is not public. There could potentially be six courts there where the former soccer park was. There would need to be parking. \$40,000/court. There would need to be parking created for pickleball as well as for Abercrombie baseball fields and also coordination is needed with the former Greenfield Center School.
- Phil Elmer pre-application wants to remove the duckweed from Highland Park, wants kayaks and pond rakes, explore dredging, and other exploration phases. Donna has concerns about permitting and coordination with the Conservation Commission.
- Ginny DeSorgher submitted a pre-application for ADA access to the high school track and Christy will explore the schools support with the Superintendent next week.
- Tina Crocker and Babe Ruth submitted a pre application for fixing bathroom upgrades and roof repairs at Abercrombie. Christy pointed out that they will need to be ADA accessible. Only used in the spring and sometimes in fall. Could be useful to have for pickleball bathrooms too. It was a good reminder that it's time to review the leases for various parks including Abercrombie, Lunt, and Murphy.
- Mike McIntyre submitted an application for a pump track at Murphy Park. Christy learned that there was BMX bike course there historically. There is some top soil storage by the Department of Public Works at this location too. Bill Johnston of a local bike store supports this project as well.
- Safe Bicycle link from George Touloumtzis from historic Deerfield to Greenfield for a feasibility study. There was concern about most of the project being in Deerfield, wetlands, etc.
- Kim Boas submitted a pre-application for trail maintenance by Bear's Den. He met with the Appalachian Trail club and they estimated \$35,000. The City does not have trail maintenance specialists at this time. There is a potential concern about union issues because it's on City property. Mark Lombard of New England Mountain Biking used to be on the Recreation Commission- could be good for Kim to network with him about NEMBA grants, etc.
- Christy received some comments about the location of the site amenities and that they must be permanent and on park space. There was a question about if they could be on Court Square/Plaza as an example.

- We will need to write Letters of support – from the Recreation Department and/or commission for other projects.

7:08pm DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FACILITY UPDATES:

Swim Area Updates:

- The DPW finally moved all the equipment back to the building. Tomorrow detectoguard will deactivate the alarm system for the season. Soccer will be finishing up and then the bathrooms can be winterized. DPW needs to push up the sand as well.

Recreation Department Building/Sanderson Street Update:

- Christy is working with George on capital repairs to the building. Christy asked Central Maintenance to request capital improvement funding for last year and he did receive the money for both interior and exterior work. A request for quotes will be released soon.

GRANT UPDATES:

Skate Park:

- Project is moving along with a few weather related delays. This week Christy had GZA Geotech Engineer Nate Russell on site to review the sub base material as it was very spongy. Brad from Pillar Designs, Construction Administrator, was also on site along with Mountain View and the excavators. Nate approved the subsurface material for the project along with Brad. At this time, the recommendation was that the material needed to dry out so it would harden. Mountain View will be working this Saturday, October 22nd to make up time on the project. Nate also approved the removed material on site to be used for compacting material for the project. Mountain View had the materials tested for compaction by Allied in Springfield.

Stanton Foundation Capital Grant:

- The Department has received a Capital Improvement Grant for the Paws Park in the amount of \$16,296.34. Upgrades will include additional benches, a storage shed, agility items, temporary fencing for seeded areas, and replacement of pea stone for the small area. This grant was successful due to the dedication of Paws Park patrons who truly love the park and for that the Department is grateful! Spreading the rice/pea stone will be done by volunteers or the jail crews.

Greenfield Local Cultural Council Grant:

- Department submitted to hire an artist to paint the Poet Seat at the skate park and for the winter carnival. Total request was \$3,000.

Massachusetts Cultural Council COVID Recovery Grant:

- Christy has submitted an application for cultural and public art programming. The hope is to still somehow bring the CREOS public art to Greenfield! (e.g. see saw that glows at night). Many of the projects get funded with very little specificity needed on the application.

Safe Routes To School Grant:

- City's grant coordinator is working on this grant to help improve the sidewalks around the Greenfield Middle School and Federal Street School. Christy shared the data and report that was collected with the Mass In Motion AmeriCorps program in 2018.

Massachusetts Cultural Council Festival Grant:

- This grant opens next week and we will be applying.

STAFFING UPDATES:

Program Supervisor Position:

- Shayla Demers has been hired as the new Program Supervisor- very exciting! She has worked in the after school program and grew up participating in our programs with her family. She started on 10/11/22 and is a wonderful addition to the department.

Greenfield After School Program:

- The Department has one new employee Ebony White-Politis who started this month. In November, the Department has two Greenfield High School students starting after volleyball ends. The Department also interviewed another candidate and offered them the position. If this person accepts, GRASP will be very close to fully staffed.

Teen Center Coordinator:

- Christy finalized the job description for the Teen Center Coordinator with Human Resources. Christy needs to create and develop the policies and procedures for the program. There was a candidate from our recent applicant pool that Christy may speak with to gauge their interest. Otherwise, Christy will post the part-time position (20-25 hours/week). Goal is to open in January 2023 as a drop-in and buy a membership (less licensing that way).

PROGRAMS UPDATES:

Fall Soccer:

- Pee Wee Soccer has ended and the jamboree is in two weeks for the junior and senior teams with one more regular play this weekend.

Basketball Programs:

- Christy is still trying to navigate the school use requests for Federal and GMS. Apparently the floor is unplayable at the middle school. Christy has asked for an update on the repair schedule. Christy needs to follow up with Eric Heavy who is the School Facility Manager. If the Department cannot participate in the recreation league, the Department will hold a multi-week clinic similar to last year.

Hillside Park Vandalism

- ~\$700 repair from vandalism at Hillside Park signage and energy park signage-Christy met with a vendor.
- Christy is working with the District Attorney on one of the group of teens who were found guilty of the vandalism.

7:27pm Old Business

- Heather asked about the Riddell Street location- used now for storage of Mutts and Mayhem and Cornhole Tournament. Christy responded that the grant was not given for Brownfields repairs so items can stay stored for now.

Open Discussion

None

7:29pm New Business

Halloween

- Christy has not heard back from the marching band at GHS.
- Christy is working on dental goodies but not much luck this year.
- Mik and Donna and Barb and likely Myrt may serve as a judge in the costume contest.

Capital Plan:

- Christy shared plans, five year and master plan as well as photos of pickleball, bocce, Swim Area as well.
- Christy will attend a meeting with Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner at the FRCOG on Monday to get a better idea on trail mapping and wayfinding costs.
- Heather made a motion to and Danica seconded put erosion control first to save the Green River playground, Highland trail wayfinding second, bocce (has partial funding) as third, and pickleball fourth. DPW could potentially help with the erosion control too. All voted in favor of the motion.
- Heather made a motion and Danica seconded to move ahead with a five year Capital plan. All voted in favor.

Budget:

- Christy has prepared two scenarios for the budget and shared them with the Commission. Heather made a motion to approve FY24 Status Quo plus one, Danica seconded. All voted in favor. Barb added that Christy could mention Community Preservation gatekeeping- possibly lots of recreation projects coming down the pipeline.

Open Discussion

Winter Carnival:

- Sponsorship letters have been sent thanks to Shayla! The Department is starting to brainstorm ideas and themes. If anyone has any thoughts, please let us know.

Soap Box:

- Christy shared the email from Mik. Heather made the motion and Danica seconded that Greenfield Rec does not have the capacity to support this event. All voted in favor. Christy will reach out to Mik to thank him for his past soap box derby volunteer efforts and fundraising and update him on the Department's inability to support this event in the future.

Future Agenda Items

- 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.
- Parks tour for Commissioner

Next Meeting Date: November 17th at 6pm

Adjourn at 7:52pm – Motion made by: Heather

Seconded by: Barb