

**City of Greenfield
Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2021
6pm**

Attending:

Christy Moore, Myrt Jaquay, Donna DuSell, Barb Zaccheo, and Danica Hochstetler

Action items:

- All listed in yellow.

6:00pm CALL TO ORDER

6:01pm INTRODUCTIONS

- Commissioners introduced themselves to Danica who is visiting as a possible Commissioner. Danica has two sons who participate in GRASP, sports, and camps. Danica would enjoy organizing corn hole and golf fundraisers.

6:04pm REVIEW OF OCTOBER 21, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

- Myrt made a motion to approve the October 21, 2021 meeting minutes with an edit to remove Donna's name from the new Commissioner recruitment action item and Donna seconded. All voted in favor.
- Carryover and current action items are listed in yellow.
- Christy will check in with the Mayor's office about Danica and Mary being Commissioners as of 12/31/21.
- Christy is still waiting to connect with Comcast on the Teen Center internet connection.
- Commissioners are encouraged to propose ideas for the Sustainable Greenfield Committee position to Christy.
- Christy will need multiple City Council readings and encourages the Commission's support of the Skate Park during this process.
- The Department is still searching for staff for both GRASP sites including coordinators and group leaders-Christy will check out AmeriCorps for possible employees.
- Christy will share a Budget FY2023 proposal at the December meeting.
- 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.

- The Greenfield Superintendent of Schools and Christy are still working to set up a meeting- busy schedules!
- The Annual Friends of Greenfield meeting is scheduled for 12/7/21.
- Myrt shared the name of Jonathan Boschen who has done incredible historical video pieces on Greenfield in the past. Christy will also reach out again to GCTV.
- Donna is interested in having a debrief of the Greenfield Soap Box Derby fall event and to finalize the donation to the Skate Park including donations that came through Facebook- she'll need Kelly's help on that.
- Donna is working to sell Greenfield Soap Box Derby t-shirts that are left over from the event.

6:14pm PUBLIC INPUT/DISCUSSION

- Danica asked about where the meeting minutes and announcements are shared. Donna replied that it's on the City website on the City calendar and also on the Greenfield Recreation department website.

6:16pm DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PARC Grant for Skate Park:

- Christy has been working with the Land Surveyor to finalize the new parcels. The Department will need to present to the Planning Board on December 2 for final approval. Then the Department will move to City Council for resolution approvals and submit the deed changes. Finally, the Department will be able to return the Grant Contract to the State for acceptance of the Grant. Christy is also working with the Procurement Officer on the project to be sure the Department is following all procurement laws for design and construction.
- Christy has a meeting with Community Department Block Grant Staff MJ Adams and Lindsay Rowe about potential funding for skate park amenities or other ADA improvements in the parks. Commissioners share with Christy if they have any ideas on this.

GRASP:

- The Department is still trying to find staff. The Department has offered two positions and both have found full time jobs. The Department has one Greenfield High School student starting next week and one interview next week. Both are Group Leaders and not eligible to be Site Coordinators due to their age and required experience. The department is still plugging through and will continue the employee search.
- Loren is working on GRASP at Federal Street (26 is the max enrolled) and Kelly and Christy are at Four Corners (at maximum with 30 students). With full staffing, license is for 52 students at each site. Four Corners has a wait list that is 8 deep.
- Donna suggested Christy contact AmeriCorps for possible GRASP positions.

Greenfield Recreation Commission:

- Two letters of interest for Recreation Commissioners were sent to the Mayor this week by Danica Hochstetler and Mary Phillips. One would be an alternate and the other a full member if the Mayor moves forward with appointments.

Basketball:

- Greenfield Recreation will be offering 3 levels of basketball starting in January. Pee Wee, 3-4 Grade and 5-6 Grade skills and drills- no games this year as there is not enough space. All programs will be offered at Federal Street School, pending final approval. Middle school gym is now storage and desks for lunch social distancing so no room for gym activities.

Budget FY23:

- The Department is developing the budget for next year including reviewing positions and any additions. Christy will share at the next Commission meeting. The Mayor is interested in Teen Center however Christy needs more staff to handle Teen Center, camps, and also GRASP programs.

Capital Plan:

- Christy presented to the Capital Committee last week. She provided an update on current projects (Skate Park and bocce park and ADA fountains at 3rd base and tennis courts at Beacon) and explanation for requests for FY23- Newton School swings, concrete amenities like, corn hole, chess board, ping pong, as well as solar charging stations and Shattuck fitness stations. The latter are FY23 request only- final funding decisions will not be approved until May 2022.

Community Relations and Education Committee (City Council):

- Christy presented updates to the sub-committee of City Council on the skate park project, winter carnival, and other programs and events. The feedback was positive from attendees Council Person Mayo, Council Person Hirshfield, and Council President Ricketts.

Grants Update:

- The Department submitted three grants for Winter Carnival Funding. 1. Greenfield Local Cultural Council for \$1,000. 2. MA Festivals Grant \$1,500. 3. MA Cultural District \$1,500

Friends of Greenfield Recreation:

- The Department sent out a meeting request for the Annual Meeting and is waiting to hear back from the group. Tentative date and time is 12/7/2021 at 11:00am. Donna will work with Kelly on getting funds from the Facebook fundraiser.

Letter from Walker “Kim” Boas about Highland park trail maintenance

- Barb volunteered to meet with Walter Kim Boas to review trail maintenance needs and next steps- Christy will reply to Walter Kim Boas first. Kim provided photos with concerns to Councilor Dolan and Christy Moore. The Commission brainstormed ideas for assistance with this future possible project: MA trails grant, NEMBA, local bike store, American Rescue money (Mayor), FY24 Capital Budget ridge trail project proposal, DPW (understaffed, permits, and animals/plants), park infrastructure money, and Civilian Conservation Corps,

6:52pm OLD BUSINESS

Greenfield Soap Box Race: Saturday, May 7th

- Danica mentioned that the Turners race was fun and also a bit slow to watch.
- Christy is hoping that getting hay, attendance, and participants well in advance of race day will be easier this year with more planning ahead. Also volunteers must be assigned to locations with captains. A deadline must be set for racers and volunteers signups.
- Donna will confirm the date with Mik and reply to Christy- it is Mik and Donna's birthdays in the same time frame.

Mutts and Mayhem or Ruf Mudder: Sunday, May 22nd

- Heather, Virginia and Myrt continue to plan this event.

Halloween:

- The event was well attended and people seemed very happy to be back to trick or treat and enjoy the costume Rag Shag parade. It was disappointing to not have the Greenfield High School marching band this year. Dental bags are still popular and donations by local dental offices continue- wonderful support of dental health.

7:06pm NEW BUSINESS

Winter Carnival: Centennial Celebration

- Event dates: February 4-6 2022
- Christy and staff are pulling together new ideas and finalizing the traditional.

- Sponsorship forms are ready to distribute tomorrow.
- Ice Carvers – the Department emailed all only heard from 2 so far and one is a yes and sadly one is a no.
- Glow Party – Kelly is working on options for glow before the Department looks into fire to keep the lights/glow theme. Myrt's contact found that the fire dancer contacts are not performing anymore due to the pandemic as business dried up so the insurance lapsed.
- Parade of Lights – the Department is ready to distribute letters tomorrow to encourage participation. The Department is trying to get Greenfield High School students involved with this or other events. Myrt suggested Rose Ledger in Erving and Crocker in Greenfield for possible Parade of Lights participants. Donna suggested Davenport trucking.
- Fireworks – Christy is preparing the documents for bid for \$4,000 (\$11,500 for Independence Day).
- Hawks and Reed event – Ben Goldsher is interested in sponsoring a roaring 1920s, Speakeasy, Ice Bar (hopefully) and Myrt suggested card games too.
- Virtual Puzzle contest and Cribbage with Rick Roy will be back.
- Free Family Dance Lesson at Dawn's School of Dance and perform at Beacon on Sunday
- Field games – the Department is working out details like bubble soccer, hungry hippos, etc.
- Amazing Race – Loren is preparing this for families
- Laser tag – depending on how tomorrow night's Rec the Night goes, this could be an option.
- Donuts with Olaf(new costume) or something else depending on Adams commitment
- K-9 Keg Pull – Christy will contact Rachael to confirm details such as sponsor, same time, and same fee.
- Cardboard Sled race will be back.
- GCTV – Christy did reach out to GCTV about creating the historic video. Anyone have old articles or photos for this? If GCTV does not want to do this Christy will reach out to the person Myrt had suggested last month. It would be so cool! Then Christy will

contact Isaac at the Greenfield Garden Cinema. Donna will check in the library for historic info for Greenfield Winter Carnival. Barb check in with Greenfield Historical Society as they may have images or items to share with filmmakers. Jonathan may interview the wise elders in town to ask about their experiences with winter carnivals of the past.

- Isaac wants to show Charlie Brown Valentine's Movie for free and a 1920s movie with accompaniment. Christy is trying to work this into the schedule.
- Commissioners share other 1920's ideas that could be fun events like winter fashions, etc.
- Antique toboggan/sled display- the Department is investigating this.

Future Agenda Items

- Is there a timer for the Dog Park lights?
- 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.
- Summer plans
- Winter carnival
- Parks tour for Commissioner
- Budget FY23
- Summer wage scale and positions (minimum wage goes up in January)

Next Meeting Date: December 9th, 2021 at 6pm

Adjourn at 7:42pm – Motion made by: Barb Seconded by: Myrt

All voted in favor to adjourn at 7:42pm.