

Recreation Commission Meeting
20 Sanderson Street City Offices and Greenfield Community Youth Center
Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 6pm

Attending:

Myrtron Jaquay, Donna DuSell, Heather Valenta, Dan Piasecki, Barb Nichols Zaccheo and Christy Moore

6:03pm **Meeting started**

6:04pm **Introductions**

- Dan Piasecki was sworn in as a Commissioner.

6:05pm **Review of March and April 2023 meeting minutes**

- Only change to minutes is the correct spelling of Dan's last name.
- Heather made a motion to accept the March and April 2023 minutes and Dan seconded. All in favor and Barb abstained as she was not present at the meetings.
- No carryover action items from March and April 2023 meeting minutes.
- Carryover from February 2023: **Barb and Dan finish ethics training.**

6:08pm **Public Input**

- Heather had a community inquiry about use of pesticides at Recreation Department fields. Snow and Sons maintains the new high school fields, not the Recreation/Parks Department.

6:09pm **Recreation Director Report**

- **Christy add Recreation Commission notes 2023 Recreation websites.**

PROGRAM AND OFFICE UPDATES:

Greenfield After School Program (GRASP):

- This week GRASP hosted the Ice Cream Emergency Bus at Four Corners and Federal Street School for the end of the season celebration. It was a real hit with the students and families. One week left of school!

Tee Ball and Buddy Baseball:

- Tee Ball ended last week – it was a great program this year with six teams! There were no weather cancellations.
- Buddy Baseball has two weeks left and is going strong. Joe Ruggeri, Valley Storm and minor league baseball player Anthony Ruggeri and their parents were a super addition last week.
- Shayla is eager to start Buddy Basketball in the colder months.

Start Smart Baseball and Soccer:

- Tonight is the last session of baseball due to a rain makeup. Soccer starts on the 27th and has 18 enrolled so far.

Learn to Play Pickleball:

- This has been a very popular program so Shayla has scheduled a second session on June 29th.

Tennis Lessons:

- Starts on July 10th – Shayla is still searching for an adult level instructor.

Basketball Clinic:

- Starts on July 10 for 2nd-6th graders at Green River Park courts.

Office Updates:

Staff Hiring & Updates:

- Still need a tennis instructor, skateboard lesson instructors for longer sessions, a few more lifeguards (need age 16 and last training class of the season is Berkshire YMCA)- need to be age 16. Staff training for summer camp is June 22-23.

Registrations and Rentals

- Office is really busy with registrations, facility rentals, and phone calls. Ben of Teen Center is also working in the office. Summer is upon us!

Old Business

Parks and Programs:

Community Safety Day

- Attendance was low due to poor weather

6:35pm New Business:

Skate Park Updates

- Grand Opening Celebration is June 21st from 4-7pm.
- Heather, Myrt, Dan, Donna, and Barb will all attend and sell hats and tshirts for the skate park (plus free stickers and tattoos) at the Recreation booth. Help is needed for keeping cars away from the event attendees.
- Christy shared the flyer and schedule for the event.
- Donna saw no need to speak at this time on behalf of the Commissioner nor Friends of Greenfield Recreation.
- 12 skateboards, helmets from Kiwanis will be provided as needed by kids.
- Donor plaque installation on the rock will be tomorrow morning at the site. The contractor will be finishing the final punch list in the next week and replacing the curb section after the grand opening. Melissa Cryan from the State will be inspecting the park on June 22.
- All grant paperwork was submitted by the June 1st deadline.

Summer Updates

Swimming Area

- Still working on guards for the season. Kelly has been working really hard to accommodate everyone's schedule but there are so many openings to fill. Need lifeguards!
- Weekly water testing has been successful. So far Christy has taken the sample and delivered it to the lab.
- The Recreation Department needed to replace the alarm pad at the river as it was not working.
- The Recreation Department also had some really bad graffiti to paint over at the pool.

Special Event Updates

Juneteenth

- June 19 Parade and event at Beacon Park 11am to 5pm

Fireworks - \$5,000 in sponsorship collected so far:

Big Bang:

Greenfield Savings Bank

Gilmore & Farrell Insurance

Razzle Dazzle:

Judd Wire

Kabam Kaboom:

Suburban Propane

Witty's Funeral Home

Coca-Cola

Oooh Ahhh

Clayton Davenport Trucking

Olive Street Development LLC

Planet Fitness of Greenfield

Fortin Award – review of award details and past winners were shared. Heather made a motion for nominating Amy Proietti as Fortin Family Award recipient for 2023, Myrt seconded. All voted in favor.

Bands – ideas – striking out and panicking a bit- Myrt suggested Paper City band from hawks and reed and Barb will check with and Stephanie Marshall will be contacted- she's focused on family emergencies now.

Fundraising ideas sought for this year and next year - ideas?

Street Collection was discussed and that it does not make much money and is a pain. Commission decided to not collect in the street.

Community Preservation Funds- Christy working with Kim Boas on trails and AmeriCorps, Pickleball court is feasibility so far.

Future Agenda Items

- Abercrombie Field and parking arrangements for baseball practices and games given new ownership of former Greenfield Center School and renovation/development
- Parks tour for Commissioners
- Energy Park funds with Friends of Recreation-for summer 2023
- Find Triathlon volunteers who can take over some of the more physical needs of the committee during race week as current dedicated volunteers are aging and need to train new members.
- Research to match someday with Friends fund or revolving or youth money for projects proposed for Community preservation funds.
- Review the leases for various parks including Abercrombie, Lunt, and Murphy.
- Connect Mark Lombard of New England Mountain Biking (used to be on the Recreation Commission) with Kim to network with him about NEMBA grants, etc. for Highland Park trail improvements.
- Propose ideas for the Sustainable Greenfield Committee position to Christy.
- Work 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 recently bought at auction) in Highland Park- check in on this in spring 2023.

Next Meeting Date: July 20th at 6pm

Adjourn 7:26pm– Motion made by: Heather Seconded by: Myrt