

**City of Greenfield
Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021
6pm**

Attending :

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

6:11pm CALL TO ORDER

6:12pm REVIEW OF APRIL 15, 2021 and MAY 13, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

- Myrt made a motion to approve both meeting minutes as written with no edits, Barb seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

6:13pm PUBLIC INPUT/DISCUSSION

- None

6:14pm DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Commissioners:

- Christy confirmed Commission expiration dates and confirmed if Commissioners have been sworn in. The Commission is composed of 7 seats with a 3 year term on each seat.
- Current Commission is:
 - Rachael Jaquay. December, 2021.
 - Taffy Ruggeri. December, 2021.
 - Jennifer Hoffman. June, 2023.
 - Heather Valenta, **Alternate**. December, 2022. – Christy will request that she move to Full Member
 - Myrt Jaquay-Wilson, **Alternate**. December, 2022. - Myrt confirmed that he will move to Full Member.
 - Donna DuSell, **Chair**. June, 2023.
 - Barbara Zaccheo, **Clerk**. December, 2022.
- Christy will check in with Rachael on her future as a Commissioner.
- Donna and Christy will check in with potential Commissioners to backfill for Taffy position and likely Rachael position.
- Myrt made a motion to nominate Donna as Chair and Barb as Clerk, Barb and Donna seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Skate Park Fundraiser at Hawks and Reed:

- This fundraiser was a huge success as nearly \$4,000 was raised for the Skate Park. Ben Goldsher and the Skate Greenfield group really came through. They are working on other fundraisers and hope to be in the Franklin County Parade as well. Approximately 170 people were in attendance and the music and crowd were great. Excellent Recorder coverage and attendance by local and independent school students as well. If a \$400,000 PARC grant is to be awarded, the total goal would be \$50,000 (through fundraisers, Soapbox derby, Tony Hawk \$5,000 if granted, and private donations). City has pledged \$350,000.

PARC Grant for Skate Park

- Site visit is anticipated on August 20th. Charity is waiting for Melissa to confirm.

Youth Health Employment Grant:

- The Recreation Department found out today that it is awarded from the Attorney General's Office \$4,000 for lifeguard youth employment grant.

Summer Learning Program with GMS:

- Today was the last day of this program. It has been a challenge to pull together staffing. It was successful with some behavior challenges. Christy is glad that the Department had this experience prior to opening the youth center. There are many details the Department needs to review and adapt prior to opening.

Teen Center Lift Zones:

- Christy is still waiting to connect with Comcast.

Boy Scout Eagle Scout Projects:

- Christy shared the proposal for the Eagle Scout project from Andy Bostrom. The Commission was pleased to review the project and also shared concerns that there may be vandalism and theft of a bench at Highland Park. Due to potential conservation restrictions, it was suggested that no concrete could be poured for the bench- Myrt added that perhaps a diamond pier mount could work?
- There is also concern about not blocking emergency services access with a bench- possibly locate it at the park entry would be better although it'd be closer for theft and vandalism.
- The projects cannot include any changes to the root systems of the trees as it's a park- including his idea to add wood chips over the tree root system.
- Christy will work with Andy Bostrom on more ideas.

Letter by Colin M. O'Brien of 113 Beacon Street:

- Christy shared the letter on the baseball backdrop and Beacon Field abutters' property damage including house shudders, car windshields, and picture windows. The main concern is the current backstop does not stop the foul balls as the field is

frequently used by older teens and adults. There is also concern about trespassing when foul balls go into the neighbors' yards.

Greenfield After School Program (GRASP)

- The Department needs to hire 9 staff. The Department has been inundated with family inquiries and is working to re-license each location- Four Corners and Federal Street School. Friday will be the Fire inspection and there will be an upcoming Building inspection as well. The department is waiting for confirmation from the school department about transportation from Newton to Federal Street School. With the elimination of the ELT program, Newton will be charged the normal after school rate not a discounted rate as in years past due to their late arrival based on the ELT schedule.

6:55pm OLD BUSINESS

Triathlon

- The Department was very pleased with the event. Christy shared a thank you to those who were able to help. Christy noted that approximately 230 athletes participated and were able to swim! For next year, the Department will need to provide more vegetarian burritos.

6:59pm NEW BUSINESS

Swim Area Updates:

- The Department is quickly losing staff for the season due to returns to college and moving on to other jobs. The Department will need to adjust the pool hours the week of August 23 through Labor Day to 12-7pm. The Department does not have enough lifeguards, concession or gate staff. The Department is cross training the facility attendants to help finish the season.
- There have been many complaints and requests for season pass refunds due to heavy rains and high bacteria levels. When it's hot and swimming is allowed, there have been no complaints.
- Barb made a motion to not authorize season pass refunds due to summer 2021 rains and high bacteria levels preventing swimming and that future website and application will be advertised as non-refundable; Myrt seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Trees at Green River Swimming and Recreation Area and Four Corners Elementary School:

- Forestry Department Mike Duclos and Town Arborist, Paul Newell, are considering Mary Chicoine and the Tree Committee proposal for new trees.
- Christy shared feedback on tree locations with the Tree Committee and Recreation Commission. All were in support of planting additional trees in the parks.

Fall Programs:

- The Department is finishing up some summer programs and starting the fall program registrations. Co Rec softball playoffs are this week and tomorrow is Tom and Jerry movie at Beacon Field. Macbeth auditions start this Sunday and soccer registrations are coming in. On August 20th is Rec the Night - Hogwarts Mystery Night and it is nearly full with 15 kids already. CPR and First Aid class is August 24th – 6-10pm and there is space for more registrants!

Soap Box Race

- Donna reported and updated the Commission. At this time, the event needs volunteers, food vendors, and racers! There are build days this weekend. The City will highlight it on the City website and calendar.
- Donna shared the postcard for promotion of the event.

Severance Whiffleball:

- Christy shared the Recorder article about the young people that used Severance Park for whiffle ball.

Future Agenda Items

- Is there a timer for the Dog Park lights?
- Halloween fall 10/29/21 and covid19- Christy email Greenfield Business Association.
- Donna and Christy continue revival of Friends of Greenfield Recreation.
- 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 Beacon Field movies.
- Christy reach out to local manufacturers for donations for the robotics program.

Next Meeting Date: September 16, 2021 at 6pm

Adjourn – Motion made by: Myrt Seconded by: Barb

All voted in favor to adjourn at 7:35pm.