



Greenfield Recreation Commission

20 Sanderson Street City Offices/ Greenfield Community Youth Center
September 25, 2024 - 6:00 PM Meeting Minutes –FINAL

Committee Members Present:

- Donna DuSell, Chair
- Barbara Nichols Zaccheo, Secretary
- Danica Hochstetler, Member
- Myrt Jaquay, Member
- Mary Phillips, Member
- Daniel Piasecki, Alternate
- Heather Valenta, Alternate
- Christy Moore, Recreation Director, Ex-Officio

Others Present:

- Hugo Taggert, Pump Track supporter
- Jake Wallace, Youth Center Coordinator
- n/a
- n/a
- n/a
- n/a
- n/a

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.

6:01pm Call to Order by Chairperson:

Roll Call of Commissioners:

- Present Guests- Jake Wallace and Hugo Taggert
- Present Commissioners- Heather Valenta, Danica Hochstetler, Dan Piasecki, Myrt Jaquay, Donna DuSell, and Barbara Nichols Zaccheo.
- Present: Recreation Department Director Christy Moore
- Absent Commissioners- Mary Phillips

6:03pm Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Draft August 14, 2024 meeting minutes were emailed before the meeting.
- Dan made a motion to approve both the August 14, 2024 minutes with no edits, Heather seconded. All voted in favor.
- Carryover action items from the August 14, 2024 minutes are:
- Christy is waiting for final determination from NHESP (Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program) for Highland Trail Improvements as part of the Community Preservation funds.
- Christy needs to follow up for finer details to be submitted from the Appalachian Mountain Club for the approval by Highland Trail project. The Department and Kim most likely will need to ask for a CPC contract extension and an 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 for Highland Trail improvements.
- Christy needs to establish meetings to get the Highland Trail mapping project moving forward.
- Christy will reach out to Mary and Robbie Cohn about access to Highland Park trails near Stop N Shop.

6:06pm Public Comment:

- Jake Wallace, Youth Center Coordinator was introduced and Commissioners introduced themselves to Jake. He will work with Nick who worked in the Rec Room last year and they have many exciting and fun ideas for the programming.
- Hugo Taggart of 36 Pierce Street spoke in favor of a bicycle pump track for Greenfield. Hugo explained that there are unique things to do on your bicycle on a pump track and that a Skate Park is designed for skateboards and scooters. A pump track is for bmx and dirt jumper bicycles. Many of Hugo's friends are interested in a pump track. He shared that Matt of the Outer Limits bicycle store may build a pump track in the property adjacent to his building.
- Mike McIntyre withdrew a 2022 Community Preservation proposal for a pump track near Murphy Park due to a busy schedule and challenge of finding an appropriate location.
- Christy shared that the tough part is finding a location for the bicycle pump track. Hugo suggested the Riddell Street location however it's a Brownfield site and has the Maple Brook culvert running through it so there are some complications there. **The Commission will discuss the pump track in today's meeting and Christy will follow up with Hugo.**

6:20pm Director's Report

Park and Program Updates:

Fall Soccer:

- Fall soccer games are underway although the Pee Wee is not playing this week due to the Green River clean up event at the Green River Swim Area on 9/28/24. Shayla has confirmed the soccer officials for the season with the help of some Greenfield High School soccer students. There are roughly 12 different teams this year.

Rec the Night:

- The next "Rec the Night" event is this coming Friday, with the theme of Sports Night. Shayla and Jake will be leading the night's activities. They are anticipating 10-12 students attending.

Field Hockey:

- This new field hockey program is going well. There has been a lot of navigating with the other towns and officials which is new for Shayla but she has been doing a remarkable job coordinating everything. The players and families involved are really happy with this program.

Greenfield Recreation After School Program (GRASP):

- Both sites are running as smooth as possible. GRASP is still in need of a few more Group Leaders for each site. Currently, enrollment at Federal Street is higher than at Four Corners.
- Christy requested a meeting with the Mayor, Police Chief Dodge, and Schools Superintendent to review emergency procedures for shelter in place/lockdown. There was recently an incident at the Stop n Shop gas station with several suspects fleeing a car being searched by law enforcement.

Green River Swim Area:

- Last week, the Recreation Department packed up the supplies at the Green River Swim Area and on Friday, September 20th the DPW helped move all supplies and equipment back to the Sanderson Street building for the season. DPW and Central Maintenance will need to remove the boardwalk, push up the sand and winterize sometime next month. This weekend is the Green River Clean Up.

Facility Rentals:

- The facility rental requests are finally slowing down. There are a couple next month which probably will be the end of the rental season.

Grant Updates:

Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) Grant :

- The Department applied for the Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) Grant for kicksleds to add to the winter carnival offerings. (See attached document). The total request is \$10,720 for five kicksleds which includes tax, marketing, and shipping. The max award would be \$10,000.

6:26pm Old Business

Highland Trail Mapping:

- The Department is making progress with the Highland Park Trail mapping project. The Department is reviewing a few sections of trails to confirm routes as well as preparing an informational page for each map section with trail information, highlights, what you can do, and park etiquette. The Department will then meet with Ryan at the FRCOG to pull it all together before a public meeting to include stakeholders such as bicyclists, hikers, and the general public. . Christy needs to follow up with the Land Trust about the private parcels and working through that process.
- Danica and Barb will research with Mary and Greenfield Historical Society about the Sachem's Head platform.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Project Updates:

Greenfield High School Track:

- The Greenfield High School Track access path is complete thanks to DPW's hard work last month. It looks beautiful! Christy will close out this CPC project next month. See attached photos.

Bocce Courts:

- Christy met with the contractor for punch list items and the addition of arborvitaes. Christy should be able to close out this CPC project next month.

Main Street Pocket Park:

- Chess Board and Benches were removed by the Mayor after consultation with Christy, Police Chief Dodge, local business owners and the Mayor. Originally, these were funded by AARP funds. It continues to be a hot topic as there are varying opinions on the removal of these pocket park amenities.

New Business:

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) 2025 Projects:

Hillside Park Rube Goldberg Miracle Machines:

- The Recreation Department submitted a pre-application to install three Rube Goldberg inspired STEM mechanical chain reaction play panels at Hillside park to create new and innovative ways for children to play and learn.
- The panels feature an elaborate design of levers, pulleys, slides, and switches that users can manipulate to change the way the elements relate, helping to develop cognitive and fine motor skills as well as provide insights into cause-and-effect relationships. STEM is an integral part in developing critical thinking skills and encouraging innovation in our community's youngest population. Christy shared the CPC pre-application and documents with photos of the proposed play panels.

Pickleball:

- Amy Proietti will apply for pickleball funds and Mike will apply for more pickleball court improvements.
- The CPC Meeting is this Thursday to review pre-applications.

Pickleball and Davis Tennis Court Cracks:

- Christy is working to get quotes to repaint the pickleball court and repair a few surface issues. The estimate is for \$12,000 for the pickleball court. These courts were opened in September 2016 and used by many pickleball players year round.
- The estimate for tennis courts is \$20,500 to fix the Davis tennis court cracks. It estimated to cost approximately \$300,000-400,000 to replace the four court battery. Christy will reach out to the schools to talk about cost sharing on the Davis Street tennis court repairs as the Greenfield High School tennis team uses these facilities.

Halloween

- The department is preparing the flyer and needs to confirm a couple more events and then will release the flyer. Christy will need help at the Rag Shag costume event to hold signs and a judge. Christy will follow up with dentists next week and order some small giveaway to put into the bags.

Winter Carnival:

- Heather made a motion that the Winter Carnival run January 31 to February 2, 2025 103rd Winter Carnival and that the theme to be Polar Playground and Danica seconded. All voted in favor.

Rec Room:

- Jake is excited to start the Rec Room program. He has about 15 registered so far with new memberships coming in daily. He has been working really hard to create the October schedule of activities. He went to the Middle School Lunch this week and passed out flyers and met with students about the program.
- Christy shared the flyer, calendar of activities, and the Rec Room recent newsletter.

Dodgeball Tournament:

- Fireworks Fundraiser – Shayla is determined to make this successful this year! Christy shared the flyer. Christy passed out a volunteer sign up sheet for the November 9

dodgeball tournament and Commissioners signed up for shifts. Donna is working on getting it up on the Friends of Recreation Website and Christy is adding it to the Greenfield Recreation website.

Public Request For Pump Track:

- Christy shared the emails from Hugo Taggert and Ruth Gemperlein.
- Over the years, there have been numerous conversations about adding a pump track to the park system. Christy has recently received a couple of emails from citizens about this project which Christy shared. Christy invited them to share their thoughts on the project this evening and Hugo attended as a guest.
- Christy will research if Millers Meadows/Wedgewood Gardens location or Riddell Street or other locations would be suitable for a pump track.

Recreation Commissioners:

- Danica, Mary, and Myrt will all send an email to Christy to state interest in renewing as a Recreation Commissioner. Christy is grateful for their ongoing support.

Future Agenda Items

- Capital Plan
- Budget and Staffing to prevent burnout

Next Meeting Date:

- Re-Scheduled from Oct 17th to October 22, 2024 from 6-7:30 pm.
- Commissioners are invited to October 17 Mayor's Walk at Highland Park.

Adjourn – Motion made by: Dan Seconded by: Danica and Heather