

Recreation Commission Meeting

3/10/2021

Zoom Meeting

DATE: March 26, 2021

TIME: 10:53 AM

Commission Attendees:

- Officers: Anthony Ferrante (chair), Marsha Semuels (vice chair), Cortney Eldridge (secretary), David Kane (liaison to Community Preservation Committee (CPC))
- Members: Paul Cowing, Anne Helgen, Theresa O'Connor, Melissa Hart, Mary Bradley

Town Attendees: Jon Marshall (Assistant Town Administrator), Brandon Fitts (Assistant Recreation Director), Heidi Barberio, Chris Costello

5:33pm call to order

Review and approve minutes from 2/24/2021

Approved unanimously: Paul, Anthony, David, Anne, Melissa, Theresa

Underwood Pool Discussion: Brandon, Jon

- The pool did not open last year; the Recreation Department's goal is to put together a plan that works with what assumptions/constraints exist at the present moment. Goals include putting together a financial plan to achieve cost recovery.
- Under current guidance, pool capacity is limited to 50% bather load. Underwood's capacity is 333, so 50% is about 165 individuals.
- Summer pool season is slated to start June 23rd and operate for 73 days.
- The break-even point this year is \$290k; the true cost of running the pool (including overhead) is \$330k.
- Running pool for seven days a week; salaries \$185k (24 lifeguards)
- Members must sign up for time blocks (two hours)
- Rain date = no salary (or reduced) for that day
- Pool hours: 8am; close 8pm
- Four life guards at each pool during the day
- Public swim starts at 10am every day; goes till 8pm
- 8am-10am – programming (e.g., Torpedoes swim team, lifeguard training, maintenance, swim lessons, camp, BAT team, biathlon training, adult swim)
- Maintenance is done every day (before pool opens)

Discussion

- Adult swimmers: usually fewer than 10 during this timeframe
- Would it be possible to market to adults for adult swim?
- Have we worked with the Dolphins? They split between BATs and Torpedoes

Membership options/pricing/discussion

Membership discussion: Scenario #1

- Five opportunities to swim each day
- Membership "guarantees" access two times per week per person
- 475 resident passes \$365 each; 75 nonresident passes \$730 each; this is a limit on pool passes
- In 2019, we sold more than 600 passes
- Do we even open up the pool for non-residents? (We don't have enough space for the residents who might want to use the pool)

- We have 165 slots in the day
- Potentially sell family passes to residents only and require non-residents to pay drop-in rate
- Break-even: \$290k
- Cost recovery: \$336k
- If there is a “debook” then members can go in a few days before to book times (in addition to the 2 times per week they’ve already booked)
- The bookings will be online
- Could potentially reduce the family price/offer financial aid if there is a hardship and family cannot afford
- Busier time actually tends to be 10am-4pm; pool will open a week before
- We are regulated by the Board of Health; we may be able to offer more times for families if things “open up”
- If capacity changes (and Board of Health agrees):
 - Could we possibly sell additional pool passes later in the season?
 - Could we add times that residents could book?
 - Recommend getting email addresses of all pool membership holders so we can alert them to changes throughout the season

Membership discussion: Scenario #2

- Alternative pricing options (e.g., family, individual adult, child, senior, caregiver)
- Could we do “family” “individual” instead of the tiers of types of
- Question on the SKIP camp – I think in the past
- Other camps? (BASEC) – will not be able to accommodate this year due to capacity restrictions
- What are the decisions we need to make tonight? – none, yet – just a discussion and determining restraints, appetite, other possible scenarios
- What is the timing on making the next decisions? – later/end of March
- Recommendation/discussion on non-residents: allow membership to residents only

SKIP Camp Discussion: Brandon

- Conversation: whether or not to offer financial aid
- Would like to set a fee tonight
- Financial aid spots would be 35% cost (65% reduction); 7 kids per week on average
- No field trips
- Would charge for pool if camper wanted to use it
- Extended day offering: \$110 per week (for 30 campers)
- Surrounding camps (Lexington, Medfield, Brookline, Wellesley, Brookline): \$275-350 per week
- No half day, no early drop off
- Can do 80 campers per week – will not increase over the course of the summer
- Where would extended day be? – this would be at Wellington
- Camps are starting to get booked
- Time: 8:30am-3:30pm; extended day through 6pm

Motion: Move approval of \$300 for SKIP camp per week per child; \$110 fee per week per child for extended day

Approved Unanimously: Paul, Cortney, Anne, David, Theresa, Mary, Melissa, Anthony

Next meetings

- March 24th 5:30pm (Summer Plan)
- April 14th 5:30pm

Meeting adjourned 7:17pm.