

Recreation Commission Meeting
1/23/2023
Zoom

DATE: February 7, 2023
TIME: 9:03 AM

Commission Attendees: Paul Cowing (chair), David Lind (vice chair), Cortney Eldridge (secretary), Steve Warner, Anthony Ferrante, Joshua Gould, Steve Colello, Theresa O'Connor

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts

Guests: Brian Bisceglia-Kane

Call to order 5:32pm

Minutes From Last Month:

No changes

In favor: Cortney Eldridge, Anthony Ferrante, Steve Warner, David Lind, Josh Gould

Abstain: Steven Colello

Champions Soccer School Summer Permit: Brian Bisceglia-Kane and Brandon Fitts

- Hoping to use the Butler school for inclement weather spot so we do not need to cancel due to inclement weather; canceled four(ish) days last year due to weather
- Recreation Commission needs to approve (or not) permit and give authority to Brandon to work with Brian if/when necessary for updates
- Did have some challenges with one resident abutting the park; Champions Soccer School tries to keep away from that property during the summer
- Average 100-120 campers per week
- One week in August (week of 14th this year) – we may exceed 150 campers due to 30-60 high school participants

Motion: Recreation Commission approves issuing a field-use permit to Champions Soccer School from June 20th through September 1st, 2023. Further coordination may happen between CSS and the Recreation Department prior to and during the summer.

Unanimously Approved: Anthony, Steve, Josh, Steve Colello, Theresa, Cortney, Paul, David Lind

Community Preservation Committee (CPC): Grove Street and PQ Park: Brandon Fitts and David Lind

- Recreation Commission must take a vote on each of the projects
- CPC has conditionally approved each of the proposals that have been brought forward
- Opted for seed at Grove Street (it was less expensive than sod and also lasts longer)
 - This opened up funding for PQ Park Basketball replacement (in kind)
 - When this project begins (at Grove), the High School fields should be back online
 - There is some discussion on waiting for vote because some pricing is still up in the air (e.g., basketball court design cost)
 - The vote must happen ahead of Town Meeting
- Recreation Commission to wait on vote until we have final pricing

Camp Fees Discussion: Brandon Fitts

Adventure Fees:

- Premium field trip-based camp

- Ages: 14/15; could be 13–16-year-olds; trying to serve the underserved middle school population – too old for traditional camps, too young to work/be a counselor
- Belmont Rec has a 12-passenger van
- Ideas is that eight kids and two staff will go on adventures each day – could be hiking, mini golf, white water rafting day trip, etc. – max of 10 campers per week
- Staffing costs: \$15K
- Program costs: \$4K
- Capacity/sell-out: 48 kids
- Cost: \$407 per week per camper
- Propose: \$575 per week per camper – this is slightly below recommended 30% upcharge (for cost recovery) but potentially more palatable than true 30% coverage

Discussion:

- White Water Rafting may be higher insurance
- Perhaps higher charge for that week or extra fee
- What is the minimum number of enrolled campers we have (without canceling)? [TBD]
- Summer camp may subsidize some weeks when necessary; other costs are per-person (e.g., Six Flags is per-ticket cost; if we do not have a camper, we do not pay the fee)
- Looking to recruit counselors and teachers for summer camp staff

Motion:

Recreation Commission approves the fee of \$575 per week for Belmont Recreation's Adventure Camp. The camp will run from June 26th through August 11th (with the exception of the July 4th week – no camp).

Approved unanimously: Cortney, Anthony, Steve W, Josh, David, Theresa, Steve C, Paul

Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program:

- Pre-employment training program for 14- and 15-year-olds
- Counselors begin at 16 years old
- CIT Program would be at Wellington only (the youngest age group) to create the widest age range/gap
- If we take eight CITs for three 2-week sessions, we need to charge \$355 per CIT (for two weeks of camp) for cost-recovery
- Would go through application cycle

Discussion:

- In past (personal) experience, CITs have not paid for camp
- If CITs are not being paid, they should not have to pay for the privilege of working
- In past (personal) experience, paid a nominal fee (25% or 50%)
- Would like to see a nominal cost to perhaps offset or raise funds for scholarships for financial aid
- Perhaps cost is to cover field trip expenses
- CSS charges CITs \$50 per week
- Belmont Hill charges CITs \$1400
- What have we done before? No precedent!
- Looking for opportunities for the "in between" middle-school age

Motion:

Recreation Commission approves \$50 fee for each of the three 2-week sessions for CITs for 2023 Belmont Recreation Summer Program.

Approved Unanimously: Anthony, Steve W, Josh, David, Theresa, Steve C, Cortney, Paul

Underwood Pool Fees: Brandon Fitts

- Target number of sales: 450 memberships
- Need to discuss membership fees and day pass fees (and vote on them)
- Last year: charged \$350 for a family; \$650 family non-resident
- Last year: charged \$110 for an individual; \$250 individual non-resident
- This year, suggest \$10 increase per pass for memberships
- Open registration for the pool early March

Guest passes:

- Could charge them a resident guest pass rate when accompanied with a member
- Could provide some “guest passes” to the family passes and then once those are used up, charge a “day pass” rate

Discussion

- If we raise rates, it should be a percentage (not \$10 here, \$25 there)
- Is there a “couples” pass? No – two individuals are less than a family pass
- Our costs went up – labor and materials
- Is there a discount for registering early?
- Do we know how many log-in (or pay for a day pass) in the evening?
 - Can find out
- Discussed evening rate – half price vs day rate; start at 5pm
- Charge 2022 rates through some period – maybe mid-April

Agreed to pool fees as follows:

\$350 for family residents of Belmont

\$110 individual residents

\$50 seniors

\$60 caregivers

\$650 family nonresident

\$220 individual nonresident

Through April 15th, at which time prices increase to:

\$365 for family residents

\$115 individual residents

\$50 seniors (no change)

\$65 caregivers

\$675 family nonresident

\$230 individual nonresident

Individual passes (to purchase onsite/when pool opens):

\$15 Adult resident / \$7.50 after 5pm

\$10 child/senior/military / \$5 after 5pm

\$25 adult nonresident / \$12.50 after 5pm

\$20 child nonresident / \$10 after 5pm

Guest of Belmont residents who have a pool membership receive the resident day pass rate

Motion:

Recreation Commission approves the rates as stated above for Underwood Pool for the Summer of 2023.

Approve: Cortney, Anthony, Steve W, Theresa, David Lind, Steve C, Josh

Next meetings:

February 6th: 5:30pm on Zoom

March 6th: 5:30pm on Zoom

Adjourn 7:35pm