Belmont Recreation Commission

January 27, 2014 Minutes

<http://www.town.belmont.ma.us/Public_Documents/BelmontMA_BComm/recreation>

In attendance:

David Kane, Chairman

Ann Bere

Katy Bonnin, Secretary

Anthony Ferrante, CPC Liaison

Lynn Findlay

June Howell (Management Liaison)

*Absent:* Laurie Carlson, Jensen Lozano, Vice Chairman

*Notes key: CPC=Community Preservation Committee, Recreation Commission = RC, Recreation Department = RD, Underwood Pool Building Committee (UPBC)*

1. General and Ongoing Business
2. Minutes of Dec. 16, 2013 meeting approved.
3. Review of Revenue through month of December (attached)
4. Belmont Foundation for Education auction-item donations approved:

* One summer family membership
* 1 hour of late-winter rink time

1. Financial Aid

* Review of assistance: For ‘’core programs’ only, financial need must be documented (2 paystubs, previous years’ tax returns, court documents re; child-support, etc.)
* RC Committee = David Kane, Ann Bere

1. Spring/Summer Program Planning

* Camp registration will begin in March
* Commonwealth variance will be required for 2014 Underwood opening. Variance likely to be issued after April election. Variance likely if pool over-ride is approved.
* Pool membership registration will be held until decision on variance
* Lifeguards have been notified about variance timeline so they have the opportunity to seek/accept other positions.

1. FY 15 Budget Review – Town Administrator will move maintenance cost of rinks and Underwood pool back to Recreation Department (from DPW) so costs and revenues will be reflected in the same budget.

* 2013 costs approx. $172,000.00
* Salaries for maintenance/facility employees will NOT move into budget at this time.

1. Personnel/Staffing: Sue W. of Belmont S.P.O.R.T. likely to retire by end of 2014. Discussion about replacement for her current P/T position. Is their budget in Town to make this a F/T position based on # of hours (including many evening/weekend/travel hours) and special education or training this person should have for working with program participants.
2. Underwood Pool Project Review
3. Final pool design will be presented to Board of Selectmen at their next meeting (Scheduled for Mon, 02/03/2014 at 7:00pm)
4. Discussion on Pool Programming: Event Coordinator, availability of board games and park supplies (balls), providing resin beach chairs, multi-generational programming, extended hours (ie; morning lap swim)

* Need for ‘point-of-sale’ pool passes (not to be sold by lifeguards). Ability to take cash and/or credit cards in addition to checks.

1. Higginbottom Pool :

**Community Frustration with Higginbottom Pool Maintenance and Oversight**

* Lack of general physical maintenance of pool and surrounding facility contributing to pump failures
* Lack of proper oversight during past repairs – checking on electrical power to handle new pump before it was purchased/installed
* Dirty vents, floors, duct work leading to expensive failure
* BPS high-level administration apparently unaware of BATS financial arrangements with BHS and programming preference over Town programming.

**Dolphin Community/RD Frustration During Closure:**

* Lack of availability of alternative training facilities during closure (allocation of gym space on group size)
* Concern of RD about PODS scheduling practices at independent pools and potential liability
* Communication chain between RD and PODS on to Dolphin families

Refunds

* Swimming lessons, Session II refunded
* RC approved $75.00 refund per Dolphin family if requested by Friday, February 14, 2014)
* Other swimmers refunds to be determined by June on a case-by-case basis (ie; lap swimmers)

RC respectfully asks, but did not vote for such a request, that Peter Castanino specifically ask Town Administrator, David Kale to request $9,000 - $12,000 from the BPS Superintendent for the RD to make up for program and membership fees refunded from RD budget due to pool closure.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2014**

Please let June know if you have any items you would like discussed on the February Agenda jhowell@belmont-ma.gov or (617)993-2760