

Recreation Commission Meeting

4/11/2022
Zoom Meeting

DATE: May 10, 2022
TIME: 9:15 AM

Commission Attendees:

- Officers: Paul Cowing (chair), David Lind (vice chair), Cortney Eldridge (secretary),
- David Kane (liaison to Community Preservation Committee (CPC))
- Members: Theresa O'Connor, Melissa Hart

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts (Acting Director of Recreation), Eric Abruzzi

Guest: Michael Gao

5:31pm call to order

Review and approve minutes from 3/28/22:

Approved unanimously as amended: Paul, David, Theresa, Mary, Cortney, Anthony
David Lind, David Kane, Anthony Ferrante, Cortney Eldridge, Theresa O'Connor, Paul Cowing

Permit Request from Belmont Chinese American Association: Michael Gao:

Summary on application request:

- Coordinating concerts across four different towns (Lexington, Belmont, Weston, Acton)
- Sunday, June 19th
- Start set up around 5:00pm; finish by 9:00pm; concert 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- Came last year, August 1st, and was a tremendous success
- Traditional Indian dance, Chinese music, professional and amateur performances
- Estimate 100 people attended last year
- New this year: concert is funded, in part, by grant from the Belmont Cultural Council (BCC); would like to have food trucks on site – food truck must have valid permit from Belmont Health Department

Discussion:

- Confirmed that food waste (extra garbage cans) will be removed by the organization
- If we approve for Sunday and it changes for Saturday, can Brandon move the event?
- Rain date plan?
- Conversation on where food trucks might be (Elm Street and close part of that street?) – Will work with Town on best location

Motion: Move to grant a field permit at Payson Park for 5:00pm to 9:00pm on Sunday June 19th. Event timing is 6:30pm to 8:30pm at a fee of \$25.00 per hour for a total of \$50.00. The Recreation Department may discuss and authorize a date change if necessary.

Unanimously approved: David Lind, David Kane, Anthony Ferrante, Cortney Eldridge, Theresa O'Connor, Melissa Hart, Paul Cowing

CPC Officer Role:

- Conversation between Melissa Hart and David Kane and possible hand-off
- Melissa to shadow Dave and perhaps start later in the year

Budget Update (Brandon):

- Town Meeting is coming up
- Dissolving special revenue account and moving into General Fund
- Aiming to move to Enterprise Fund for Fall Town meeting
- For the rink, we need to take the money out of the special revenue account and back into a budget
- Budget expenses: \$1.3m
- Budget revenue: \$1m
- The professional & technical fees have gone up/been entered into our budget – these are offset by income/revenue
- Town will subsidize Recreation Department by \$250k through Fall Town Meeting (when we move to Enterprise Fund)
- Other option: Revise mid-year when we have revenue and reevaluate
- Final option: must pick and choose which programs we run (reduce programming)
- Year-to-Date, we have just over \$1m in revenue

Directors Update (Brandon)

Dogs and Tennis:

Tennis:

- Confrontations on the tennis courts. There are rogue tennis teachers running their private business(es) on the courts under the radar (which may not be legal).
- We allowed parents to make a reservation in the system so their children could have a lesson on the court.
- Belmont High, Belmont Hill, Belmont Day are starting to use the courts

Discussion:

- Possible concern for HS using (all) the courts for prime time
- Anthony is in favor of requiring booking ALL courts across town
- Is there a way for us to put a maximum time limit on unreserved courts?
- Some history: Recreation Commission meeting on September 8, 2020, we discussed ability to cap the number of sessions the individual is able to reserve; meeting on October 22, 2021 discussed – if a coach wanted to book a time, to speak to the Recreation Department; if individual wants to book a lesson, the parent must book a court (and hire a coach)
- Dave suggestion clarity in signs for laws (and whose laws, etc.)
- Melissa is there a way to have a timing device (inexpensive) to allow for an hour of play
- Paul: concerned about allowing businesses to operate on public resource for private industry; do some research into what we can and cannot allow legally; where we can draw lines and guidance; must have a permit through the town for commercial purposes
- Brandon: include some verbiage on signage about being respectful; one-hour limit if somebody is waiting
- Melissa/Theresa: can we limit times for lessons to non-peak time?
- Anthony: should not be lessons on the courts in the spring – the HS should get priority for the courts
- Paul: let's put this on our agenda (May); do some research on what communities around us are doing and

Next meeting:

- Next time Activitas
- Naming convention for courts are finalizing

- Dogs

Next meetings

- May 9th 5:30pm (remote)
- June 13th 5:30pm (perhaps in person)

Meeting adjourned 7:06pm.