

DATE: February 15, 2022
TIME: 2:21 PM

**Recreation Commission Meeting
1/10/2022
Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Commission Attendees: Officers: Cortney Eldridge (Chair), Paul Cowing (Vice Chair), David Kane (liaison to Community Preservation Committee (CPC)), Theresa O'Connor (Secretary), Anthony Ferrante, Steven Collelo, David Lind, Anne Helgen (author of minutes).

Absent: Melissa Hart

Also in attendance:

Brandon Fitts (Recreation Department Acting Director)

Heidi Barberio

Chris Costello

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm.

Staffing Update: Brandon informed the Commission that Chris Costello had resigned to take a new position in Wayland. Chris has been with the Recreation Department for 4 ½ years and will be sorely missed.

Minutes: Anne moved approval of the December 6, 2021, which was seconded. Approved: unanimously.

Discussion of Summer Camp and Pool Fees:

Camp Fees

- Brandon proposed increasing the number of campers from 80 to 120 at a weekly rate of \$300 and \$110 for extended day, which is the same as last year. Last year there was a long waiting list and it is the opinion of the Recreation Department that this increase can be accommodated. The camp, which is now licensed, has seen strong demand.
- An analysis was presented to show the revenue needed to cover the costs of the camp. FY22 camp costs are expected to increase due to additional staff to cover the increase in campers and cost of operations.
- Based on a projected 80% capacity, the operating and allocated costs would be covered by the proposed fees.
- A discussion ensued, including:
 - The desirability of non-resident participants and charging a higher fee for non-residents.
 - The inclusion of swim lessons, which will be brought back this year. Due to strong demand for open swim at the pool, there will be less time available for camp swim lessons. In addition, while Brandon was able to train two new Water Safety Instructors over the holidays, it is unclear if others will be able to be hired. The Commission encouraged the Department to adjust open swim hours to allow for at least two camp swim lessons per week.

Motion: To approve resident summer camp fees of \$300 per week and \$110 per week for extended days and non-resident summer camp fees of \$350 per week and \$125 per week for extended days, with a minimum 30-day lead for resident applicants before accepting non-resident applications. The Commission authorized the Recreation Department to determine the

maximum number of non-residents and to create a waiting list methodology for prioritizing residents.

Approved: Unanimously.

Underwood Pool Fees

- The Recreation Department proposed increasing the family membership fees from \$300 in 2019 and 2021 to \$350 in 2022 and keeping day passes at the same rate as last year. Staffing costs are expected to be the biggest issue for the pool this summer. Brandon has surveyed surrounding towns and reports that hourly rates have increased from 2021. In addition, Underwood will be hiring 40-45 lifeguards, compared to 28 last year, to accommodate expected usage of the pool.
- An analysis was presented to show the break-even costs and allocated costs of operating the pool and showing that 80% of projected memberships will cover this amount.
- The Commission discussed the following issues:
 - The desirability of non-resident usage-Steve Collelo stated his opposition, others were open to allowing some usage if fees are relatively higher.
 - The appropriate fees for non-residents, caregivers, individuals, etc.
 - Whether the punch pass will be continued. It will not, as it has proved to be difficult to use and monitor effectively.
 - The Commission decided that Town Employees who do not live in Belmont will be eligible to buy resident passes.

Motion: Cortney moved approval of 2022 Underwood Pool Fees as shown; Anne seconded the motion.

Membership Levels	2022 Fees
Family (Avg 4 per fam)-Resident	\$350
Individual	\$125
Senior	\$50
Senior Free	\$0
Caregiver	\$50
Family (Avg 4 per fam) /Non-Resident	\$650
Individual/Non-Resident	\$250
DAY PASS	
Adult	\$15
Child	\$10
Adult/Non-Resident	\$25
Child/Non-Resident	\$20

Approved: Unanimously.

Revolving/Special Revenue Accounts:

Brandon provided an update on the Recreation Department's revolving accounts and special revenue accounts. Prior to the pandemic, the Town was preparing to create a Recreation Enterprise Fund at June 2020 Annual Town Meeting. As part of this, the Recreation revolving fund was dissolved at the end of FY19 and a special revenue fund was put in place for FY20 to capture contracted services revenue and pay contracted service providers. The balance of this account, approximately \$158,000 will be turned back to the town at the end of this fiscal year and a new revolving account will be established under MA General Law 53 1/2 E at 2022 Annual Town Meeting. MGL 53 1/2E allows recreation salaries-such as the youth coordinator—to be charged to this account against recreation revenues. The amount of the revolving account is to be determined prior to Annual Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.