

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

Recreation Commission Meeting

1/13/2021

Zoom Meeting

DATE: January 28, 2021

TIME: 9:48 AM

Commission Attendees:

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

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

Residents in attendance: Tommasina Olson, Bob Singler, Narine, Anne Paulson, Seetha Burtner, Christine Blazynski, FBT Editor, Kamila KQK, Donna Ruvolo, Mark Smith, Peg DeMeritt, Jane Levin

5:34pm call to order

Review and approve minutes from 12/09/2020

Approved unanimously: Anne, Anthony, Cortney, Paul, Marsha, Theresa

Review of Summer Concert: Brandon and Tomi

- Typically, the Payson Park Music Festival has 11 Wednesday evening and four Kiddie concerts
- In 2020, during the pandemic, worked with Recreation Commission and Health Department, conducted seven evening concerts
- Began July 2020 and ran through the end of August 2020
- Initially, we were allowed to have 50 people in circles (thank you Frank S!)
- Worked with Jon and developed a strategy for assignment board for seating arrangements/availability; people were escorted to their places
- Needed to reduce numbers to 25 participants due to COVID-19
- 2021 planning: Want to begin June 21st
- Anthony: We hope the summer of 2021 will be a little less restricted
- Tomi will come to an April meeting to procure a permit for the event(s); will work with Brandon

Memorial Bench at Grove Street

- Seetha Burtner is advocating for a bench at Grove Street; neighborhood would like to do something nice in remembrance of a community member who passed
- Recreation Commission to make a recommendation to Select Board to vote on
- Donna Ruvolo expressed desire to work with Friends Group (e.g., Friends of Grove Street) when items come up in relation to Grove St

Motion to approve donation and installation of bench at Grove Street Park by the Town, in accordance with Town specifications and approval of Select Board

Unanimously approved: Anne, Mary, Anthony, Cortney, Paul, Marsha, Theresa

- Have we discussed making the Grove Street walking path one way; Cambridge has been doing this
- Jon: we have discussed this and at the time we have been there, the number of people that have been using the space – this was not a need/requirement

- Can we talk to Jay maybe about temporary markings or chalk paint instead of temporary signage?

Community discussion

- You cannot do this without enforcing
- in Cambridge, it's the honor system – nobody's enforcing it; there are simple signs on fences and walls and have witnessed good behavior around it
- Anthony: is this something we can ask Jay's team to do?
- Jon: will discuss with Jay if this can be done; what timeline; if it makes sense

Approve 2021 Off-Leash Program Fees: Brandon

- Reopened off-leash dog program at the beginning of the year
- Rates carried over from 2020: \$50 for Belmont residents (\$40 each additional dog); \$70 for non-residents

Motion to approve \$50 fee for Belmont residents' dogs; \$40 for each additional dog; \$70 fee for non-Belmont residents' dogs

Unanimously approved: Mary, Anthony, Cortney, Paul, Marsha, Theresa, Anne

Tennis Reservations: Brandon

Review

- One of four courts were available for reservation (other three were drop-in/first-come, first-served) at Winn Brook, Grove, and PQ Park
- Reservations were only available for Belmont Residents
- Fee: \$5/hour

Stats

- Grove Street had the most time reserved (178 hours)
- Winn Brook 159 hours
- PQ Park 17 hours
- September 11 through December 1st, 2020
- Reservations open 7am-9pm

Feedback

- Received feedback through phone calls and emails
- Generally felt there were not enough tennis courts in town
- Perception of unapproved private lessons on the courts; primary location of these lessons were at Grove Street
- There were no waitlists; no folks unable to get on to courts

Next Steps, Recommendations, and Discussion

- At least one person in each match should be a Belmont resident
- Suggest only making paid blocks at peak times
- Mary: continue with one court until there is a waitlist
- Cortney: asked for distribution of times and reservations
- Christine Blazynski: has definitely waited for courts 30, 40, 50 minutes and recommends reservation system at all times
- Bob Singler: Can we reserve this and play pickleball?
- Anthony: let's discuss further

- Paul: Let's keep it simple; not complicate with reservations on peak vs non-peak, etc.; suggests two courts; how do we prevent a group of, say six families who sign up back to back and then get a private instructor for the students back-to-back?
- Anthony: we'd need to have a penalty for that; unclear what that would be or how to enforce it
- Jane Levin: Encourage ability to book two courts
- Anne Paulson: in favor of reserving two courts and a two-hour limit
- Mark Smith: enjoyed the reservation system; do not need more than two courts; had some trouble putting himself on the waitlist and looking at the calendar; found people to be respectful if Mark had a reservation and somebody was asked to leave
- Donna R: agree having this simple (no on/off peak time) is easier than complicated systems; suggests one reservable court
- Bob: suggests reserving courts slightly farther away from the houses (which would potentially help neighbors during earlier morning sessions)
- Defer vote to a future meeting

Directors Report

- None

Next meetings

- January 27th 6:30pm public meeting for tennis discussion CPC
- February 10th 5:30pm public meeting for tennis discussion CPC

Meeting adjourned 7:37pm.