

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

Recreation Commission Meeting
7/14/2020
Zoom Meeting

DATE: August 24, 2020
TIME: 10:03 AM

Commission Attendees: Anthony Ferrante, Cortney Eldridge, Marsha Semuels, David Kane, Mary Bradley, Melissa Hart, Anne Helgen
Town Attendees: Jon Marshall, Chris Costello, Heidi Barberio
Guests: Tommasina (Tomi) Olson

Review and accept minutes from 6/10/20: one typo to update; unanimously approved – Anthony, Dave, Cortney, Marsha, Mary

Park openings

- Jon: Phase III, Step 1 guidance came out on July 6th (a week after expected)
- We'll likely be locked into Phase III for a while
- Basketball courts are open (no pickup games or scrimmages)
- Pickleball and tennis courts are open for doubles play; encouraging face masks; discouraging pick up
- Fields: no pickup games or athletic (contact) sports; there are restrictions around "high-risk" (i.e., contact) sports; non-contact (e.g., tennis, swimming) is low risk; others (baseball, softball) are moderate risks
- Off-leash program: no clear guidance from the state but looked to surrounding/other communities to understand what others are doing; we implemented temporary hours (6-9am)
- Mary: did some research in other communities; Watertown and Weston made updates to their rules; no other surrounding towns (she spoke with) had revised rules
- Discussion
 - Community member Liljana: suggest/recommends extending hours to evening for off leash; the parks have been quiet (especially with no organized sports)
 - Community member Samantha: has a puppy and supports extended off-leash hours
 - Anthony: how does the adjustment happen?
 - Jon: board of health makes recommendations; recreation department makes suggestions; will raise it to board of health agenda for Monday (7/20)
 - Devan: do not have a dog, but appreciate this program.

Motion: The Recreation Commission moves that the off-leash program's hours are reinstated based on the 2020 Off-Leash Permit Policy with COVID-19 regulations and social distancing in place. The Program can be adjusted or withdrawn if state health and safety regulations change or if there are issues with compliance.

Approved unanimously: Anthony, David, Mary, Anne, Cortney, Melissa, Marsha

Parks and Summer Program Update

- Jon: SKIP program is in its 2nd week
- Doing other smaller programs also (e.g., archery, littler kids)
- In Phase III, can look at other programs (e.g., softball, baseball)
- We have seven adult teams (usually there are about 15 teams) who have registered interest

- Champions: there is no dedicated indoor space, but they have indoor emergency access (at the fire station); the camp started the same week as SKIP camp

Payson Park

- Anthony: would like to see a plan with how social distancing will be maintained, including a layout (e.g., how things will be marked off), signs off for DPW and Police for overtime at least a week before the first concert; the first concert cannot happen before 7/29
- Permits can be issued weekly; permitting costs will cover the costs of the services required
- Tomi: discussed the support she will receive from Highway Department, the move (originally to Belmont Center and then hopefully back to Payson Park; Tomi would like to start concerts on 7/22/2020
- Juliet Jenkins: suggests markings at six (6) feet; one place to enter; one to exit

Discussion

- Dave: what concerns did the health department have?
 - Jon: moving to the restaurant changes the designation to “street festival”, which is not permitted until Phase IV
- Jon: would like to see a map of where volunteers will be stationed, etc.
- This falls under “theaters and outdoor performances”
- Anne: what’s the risk that there’d be more people than spaces? How would we handle that?
 - Tomi: Item 3 (in a document) states 100 person limit; all others will be asked to leave or remain in their car
- Mary: what is the regulation around mask wearing? Are people required to wear them? (The CDC is not clear about this)
- There was a lot of discussion about masks required, when they’re required, if they’re allowed to be taken off during the event (etc.)
- Tomi: no porta-potties this year
- Playground equipment usage is discouraged (can it be roped off for the event?)
- Anthony: what is board of health’s position (on mask usage)?
- Permit costs would defray Town costs (e.g., police detail/overtime; DPW time); if there is no Town costs, Recreation Department can donate the permit to Payson Park Music Concert

Motion: The Recreation Commission approves a field permit for Payson Park Music Concerts to operate a maximum 100-capacity person summer music concert series with the following conditions:

1. Tomi Olson presents a logistical plan to Jon Marshall that includes a requirement for mask wearing
2. Designated, staffed one-way entrance and exit
3. Social distancing protocols in place
4. This plan (including a map) shall be delivered to Jon Marshall no later than July 20th (2020), which Jon will review with the Health Department for approval.

In addition, signoff and cost estimates from the Department of Public Works and the Belmont Police Department are required, with any incremental costs for the Town to be offset by charges for the Recreation Department field permit. The concert series will be monitored weekly by the Town to ensure conditions are followed. Failure to meet these requirements will result in retraction of future permits.

Approved unanimously: Anthony, Marsha, Anne, Cortney, Mary, Melissa, David

AdministrativeOpenings:

- We have five spots to fill and a number of reappointments
- There are several candidates
- One appointment should be two years to realign the terms

Future meetings:

Determine via email

Meeting adjourned 7:14pm.