

Recreation Commission Meeting

6/10/2020

Zoom Meeting

DATE: August 17, 2020

TIME: 2:04 PM

Commission Attendees: Anthony Ferrante, Cortney Eldridge, Marsha Semuels, Kathy Jones, David Kane, Mary Bradley, Melissa Hart

Town Attendees: Jon Marshall, Chris Costello, Heidi Barberio, Brandon Fitts

Guests: Brian Bisceglia-Kane, Tommasina (Tomi) Olson

Review and accept minutes from 5/13/20: one typo to update; unanimously approved – Anthony, Dave, Cortney, Marsha, Kathy, Mary, Melissa

Future meeting dates:

6/24 5:30pm special meeting to discuss Payson Park Music Festival pending updates and additional state guidance for Phase III

7/14 5:30pm

Field Permits and Phases:

- Jon: Parks are open!
- Phase II: Jon, Jay, Patrice, Wes have a meeting tomorrow to discuss Phase II and potentially Phase III; what can be achieved from a health and safety perspective; due diligence to see what is possible from sanitation, etc.
- Youth Sports organizing in small groups for drills; still limited to 10 participants, maintaining social distancing
- There is no timeline on each of the phases – minimum of three weeks per phase and the phases can roll backwards
- Marsha: according to a seminar, the positivity rate should be <2% -- what is our Town's rate?
 - We're not sure; don't have hard numbers and not sure how it's measured
- Anthony: reminder – any recommendation we make is contingent on state and local health guidelines

Brian BK and Champions:

- Facilities needed:
- Porta-Potties and cleaning them – they can be professionally cleaned daily and locked each evening; they have running water; some of the little kids are unable to get the foot pump to work to provide handwashing
 - Been working with Wes – will likely have two wash stations so kids can keep their hands clean
- Generally have between 140-160 kids per camp (K-6)
- This year: no more than half that (and probably less) – probably 50-60 campers
 - Current regulation: 10 campers per 2 staff
 - These individuals must stay apart from other groups
 - Recommendation is that the staff/campers stay together (to the extent possible)
 - Current plan: refund everybody (bring enrollment down to 0)
 - Add specific (COVID-related) language in our waiver; requires additional liability insurance
 - No inflatables; no inside camp

- Still need a shelter-in-place location; working with fire department and VFW nearby; need 30 square feet per person
- Uncertain about how the multi sports will work (or even soccer) because of the equipment sharing
- Will not offer camp for K or 1st grade
- Will require staff to wear masks
- Staggered drop off – parents are not allowed to get out of the car
- Temperature checks of all staff and campers (we use Brightwheel app, which has medical profile)
- Jon had a conversation with Frank and Jay at Public Works; trash must be taken offsite (and Brian is on board with this)
- Frank has lost his summer help (due to budget cuts)
- Board of health will review all camp requirements to approve (or not)

Discussion

- Q: What fraction of PQ would you normally use and what would you expect now?
- A: There is always plenty of space -- we probably use less than half; can walk the space and give us a better sense of what we might need
- Q: if this becomes a burden for one neighborhood (e.g., Porta-Potties), is there an opportunity to move to another park?
- A: I'll need to check with my partner on this; logistics and emergency protocols would change if we moved sites
- Q: If a camper has COVID-19, what is the plan?
- A: we do temperature checks and need to follow a particular protocol
- Resources: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/outdoor-adult-sports-supervised-youth-sports-leagues-summer-sports-camps/download>
- Pending: fee structure; Jon to take this on

Motion: Approve a field permit for Champions Soccer School to operate a summer camp at PQ field for 8 weeks starting July 6 predicated upon their ability to follow local and state public health guidelines.

Approve: Marsha, David, Anthony, Kathy, Mary, Melissa

Abstain: Cortney, conflict of interest

SKIP program

- Running this summer!
- It'll be an officially licensed camp
- Fees previously were at \$240
 - Would recommend around \$265
- If we do not end up at capacity, we may end up at a loss for the summer
- If we increase the cost slightly, we can break even
- Running at Wellington
- No field trips
- No pool
- We support about 50 spots in financial aid
- Last year – roughly 80 campers per session
- This year – we'd take up to 50 per session

- For space – we can access the Wellington; we need a defined space for each group (no shared spaces)
- Keep the kids outside as much as possible but if it's a rainy day, the program can continue
 - We need 30 square feet per child

Motion: Increase the weekly fee for the SKIP program for the summer of 2020 from \$240 to \$265.

Approve: Cortney, David, Kathy, Mary, Anthony, Melissa, Marsha

Deny: none

Payson Park

Guest: Tomi Olson

- Went to the Select Board meeting earlier this week
- Schedule was set to begin June 17th in December
- Under today's guidelines (Phase II), the music festival is not allowed to take place
- If we assume that this phase will last 3 weeks, then the next phase (Phase III) will begin June 29th
- Would like to start July 8th
- This is the 30th anniversary
- In the past, we've had a Porta-Potty but this year having one is unlikely
- Trash: carry in carry out
- Social distancing – this is a large park and there is plenty of space and masks wouldn't be required
- In years past, we've had a rain date; this year we'd have cancellations
- Playground equipment is an issue and the health department would need to tape off the playground equipment
- Contacted the Watertown Recreation Department – they are going forward; starting July 8th to August 26th
- If necessary, can we put the bands at Belmont Media Center to do their performance and live streamed

Questions/discussion:

- The issue is not so much interaction between musicians and audience, so not sure it makes sense to have the audience elsewhere (e.g., Belmont Media Center)
- Suggest roping off a space at least 10 feet off of the bands
- It's hard to figure out how far 6 feet is; suggest marking spaces that are "ok to sit" at
- Vocal performances are unsafe – please, no choirs
 - No choirs are slated to perform
- Would recommend more regulation than there has been in the past (leaving it up to the attendees may not make sense)
- You may attract larger crowds (since vacations are limited); is there a way to limit the number of people who come in?
 - What is the capacity of this space?
 - Tomi can figure out how other communities are handling this
 - Brandon mentioned there are some towns that have canceled their outdoor events
 - B: Southborough is moving forward and is measuring out (with limestone)

- Brandon can work with Tomi to work out health and safety details between now and our next meeting
- Jon: any decisions on this cannot be made without the Board of Health's input
- Recreation Commission to set up a short meeting with only this on the agenda and get a sense of where we are (safety, phases, etc.)

New Website/Logo

Launched in June!

Meeting adjourned 7:17pm.