

DATE: July 18, 2022  
TIME: 2:27 PM

**Recreation Commission Meeting**

6/13/2022  
Zoom Meeting

**Commission Attendees:**

- Officers: Paul Cowing (chair), David Lind (vice chair), Cortney Eldridge (secretary),
- Members: Theresa O'Connor, Steve Colello

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts (Acting Recreation Director), Heidi Barberio

Guests: Hayley Denker, Clark Freiner from Freiner

5:31 pm call to order

**Review and approve minutes from 5/9/22**

Approved: Anthony, David, Paul

Abstain (absent): Cortney, Stephen, Theresa

**Possible donation from Freiner Company (Brandon, Hayley, Clark)**

- Potentially donate plumbing services for opening and closing sponsorship for pool
- Provide merchandise opening day; raffle basket

Brandon:

- Under MA state law, any amount over \$10k must go out to bid
- Opening and closing costs are below that amount
- We are a government agency and this is a public pool, we need to be careful of preferential treatment
- Brandon and Town Council George Hall have discussed – this is a policy judgement, not a legal one

Discussion:

- Split into two invoices, spring and fall, under the threshold of \$10k
- Have been using Freiner since we opened the pool
- Supporting this sponsorship does not preclude Freiner charging us in the future, and we are not restricted to using Freiner in the future
- In favor of anything that reduces costs
- Support of sponsorship (somewhat similar to baseball/tee-ball uniforms) and partnerships

Motion: Move to accept donation of services from Freiner Company, Inc in exchange for sponsorship opportunity at the Underwood Pool for the summer of 2022.

Unanimously approved: Steven Colello, David Lind, Cortney Eldridge, Theresa O'Connor, Anthony Ferrante, Paul Cowing

**CPC and Town Meeting Recap**

- Sue Croy: On behalf of the Friends of Payson Park and Linda Oats, her co-chair, thank you for your support since 2019. 235 yes, 11 no, and six abstention votes. Grateful to have passed Article 14:D. Will likely be a spring project
- Town Field passed; meeting with design firm tomorrow (Tuesday 6/14)
- Grove St baseball field passed

- Winn Brook tennis courts passed – starting after 4<sup>th</sup> of July; 5<sup>th</sup> court will be added in a few weeks

#### **Underwood Pool opening (Brandon)**

- Planning on opening Wednesday June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Have had some issues with the company that built the pool and we may not open on time; currently slated to stick to schedule but it'll be tight
- Using Higginbottom for orientation and lifeguard training

#### **Higginbottom Pool Fees and Recap (Brandon)**

- Public swim fee \$8.00/person – must reevaluate next year; perhaps bring back memberships (and for skating rink)
- Spent \$34,800 in payroll (life guards, swim instructors)
- Spent \$21,500 in custodial fees (roughly)
- Revenue: \$66,000 in revenue
- Overall: net profit of roughly \$10k
- If we include cost-recovery, profit should have been closer to \$20k
- Pay rates for life guards will increase next year

#### **Discussion**

- Next year, perhaps membership format; “packs” this year were not discounted (e.g., \$8.00 per visit)
- Used it, but wasn't busy. Perhaps lowering cost would allow for more attendance
- 115 waitlisted students for swim lessons; was restricted by staffing (not enough staff or pool hours)
- For July: let's have a discussion on pricing and plan

#### **Possible Appointment of Recreation Commission Member to age Friendly Committee (Brandon)**

- There is an age-friendly committee; general idea is exploring different concerns in town; accessibility
- Heidi cannot serve on this committee anymore; is interested in having somebody from the Recreation Commission
- How can we make our parks accessible for people who have mobility issues or aging population?
- Theresa will step up!

#### **Future meetings:**

- For new CPC requests – there are two urgent needs – Underwood playground and Chenery middle school playground
- Brandon will discuss with Dave Kane and Elizabeth Dionne – possibly putting two projects forward at the same time

#### **Discussion**

- Chenery timeline: In the fall of 2024 is when the grades move up into the new school; at that time, the playground and tennis courts (and modular)
- Younger ages moving up will create opportunity (and urgency) for Chenery
- PTO and principal are in favor
- Who owns modulars at Chenery? Town. School uses them.
- If we do a project, let's do the whole thing – tennis courts and playground

- July 15<sup>th</sup> is the current timeline to meet in person

**Next meetings**

Tuesday July 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm

No planned August meeting

Meeting adjourned 6:18 pm.