

## Recreation Commission Meeting

11/14/22

Zoom

Commission Attendees: Paul Cowing (chair), Cortney Eldridge (secretary), David Kane (CPC liaison), Steve Colello, Steve Warner, Josh Gould

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts, Matt Haskell, Eric Abruzzi

Call to order 5:32pm

### Minutes from last month:

No comments, suggestions, changes

In favor: David Kane, Cortney, Steve Colello, Josh Gould, Paul Cowing

Abstain: Steve Warner

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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: December 13, 2022

TIME: 9:29 AM

### Introduce New Member Steve:

Lives in Precinct 7 near Grove Street

### Budget: Brandon Fitts

- Will go to Fall Town Meeting to ask for more money to operate some of the rec programs
- Traditionally, we have operated in a general fund and a revolving fund; the general fund is taxpayer dollars and revolving fund is “money in, money out” – pay for the programs and then take money in to cover the cost
- Looking to move the budget to an enterprise fund – operating more like a business within the municipality
- Currently we’re in the general fund; we need to forecast/make assumptions 1.5 years ahead of when we need the money (due to budgeting cycles)
- We budgeted \$61K for school year programming (archery, parkour, Nashoba ski program, swim lessons, etc.) – anything we run that we hire vendors for; we are halfway through fall and we’re running so many great programs we can’t pay the vendors
  - Good news is that revenue goes to free cash and we’ve covered the programs with the cost
  - We’re going to Town Meeting in November to ask us to get through (to pay vendors)
  - At Town Meeting, we anticipated \$1.3M in expenses and revenue expectations \$1.1M; Town to subsidize operations by \$256K
  - Net impact from a taxpayer perspective: zero
  - We need to ask for allowance to expand and then we’ll raise our fees appropriately
  - Projected expenses are \$1.6M and income is \$1.3M
- In Spring town meeting, would like to move to a revolving fund
- Discussion among commission; no public asked any questions
  - Q: What happens to the money at the end of the FY for a revolving fund?
  - A: We can carry forward a set amount of money
  - Q: Do your programs make money/how much?
  - A: We do a 70/30 split with our vendors, so for programming, we will typically make money; the rink (and sometimes the pool) may not make money – it breaks even or is just behind
  - Q: Do we need to take a vote?

- A: Not necessary but won't hurt
- Q: What happens if Town Meeting doesn't approve this?
- A: We can't run any more programming this year

**Motion:** Recreation Commission supports the FY23 supplemental budget request as presented by Brandon Fitts at our November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In favor: David Kane, Steve Warner, Cortney Eldridge, Steven Colello, Josh Gould, Paul Cowing

**Rink update:** Brandon

- 7:00pm rink recap at the Select Board Meeting tonight (for more in-depth updates)
- We've had an unseasonably warm fall and our opening has been pushed back; we are looking at opening November 21<sup>st</sup>
- Record number of people signed up for programming: 40+ women for hockey programs, skating lessons sold out (but needed to adjust dates to accommodate late opening)

**Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Updates:** Brandon

Town Field and Payson Park: in the queue

- Town Field under construction
- Payson Park in design

Three projects going before CPC in April

- Construction funding for Grove Street Baseball and Basketball
- Design funding for Underwood Playground
- Reconstruction in kind for PQ basketball court

Recap on process & conversation

- Each project has a two-phase approach: phase I is design and engineering; phase II is construction
- The CPC may be running on a deficit – there's a tax and then a state match; must be spent on open space, recreation, conservation, and housing
- Need a maintenance plan, including Chenery (Town-owned playground, fields, courts)

**Dog Conversation Plan and Outline:** Brandon

- Partnering with Julie Lemay (Board of Health), Wes Chin (Health Dept), and Suzanne Trasavage (Animal Control)
- Estimate around 2K dogs in Belmont
- Initiate a survey in December to get public feedback on dog program
- In January, host a public workshop (in person)
- In February, present solutions (from surveys and workshops) so people can enjoy them come spring (etc.)

Discussion

- David: recommend Select Board is involved in these meetings
- We'd need a quorum from Select Board, from Rec Commission, and from Board of Health
- Leash Law is a public health law
- Recreation Commission sets rules on how fields are used
- Need to determine who (which dept) will be the deciding party

Upcoming discussion items:

- Summer camp expansion and growth
- Underwood pool and camp fees
- Youth programming
- Age friendly impact committee

**Next meetings**

December 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm on Zoom

January 9<sup>th</sup>: 5:30pm on Zoom

January 30<sup>th</sup>: 5:30pm on Zoom

Adjourn 6:52pm