

DATE: November 17, 2021  
TIME: 2:07 PM

**Recreation Commission Meeting  
10/18/2021  
Zoom Meeting**

Commission Attendees: Officers: Cortney Eldridge (Chair) Paul Cowing (Vice Chair) David Kane  
(Liaison to Community Preservation Committee (CPC))

Members: Theresa O'Connor (secretary) Anne Helgen, David Lind  
Absent: Anthony Ferrante, Steven Coelho

Town Attendees: Jon Marshall, Brandon Fitts

5:32pm call meeting to order

**Recreation Business:**

- Welcome to new commissioner David Lind, who has returned to our community
- Announcement by Jon Marshall that this is his last Commission Meeting. He has accepted a position in Natick and will begin on November 2. Brandon Fitts will be Acting Director for one year. His many accomplishments include the 2016 Strategic Plan and accomplished building strong ties to the community.
- Motion to /approve September 13 meeting minutes (David Kane, Anne Helgen)
  - Approve: David Kane, Paul Cowing, Theresa O'Connor, Anne Helgen
  - Abstain: David Lind, Melissa Hart
- Call for volunteers for Recreation Secretary position: no volunteers so moved to next meeting.

**Summer Recap (Delivered via PowerPoint by Brandon Fitts):**

- Highlights: Conley softball, French Immersion program, programs co-sponsored with Police department, Belmont Media
- One movie night, seven rained out: will try again next summer
- Skip Camp by the numbers:
  - 2017: 374
  - 2018: 380
  - 2019: 583
  - 2020: 297 (\*COVID-19)
  - 2021: 538
- Extended Day: 23 (Capped at 30, but families working from home a factor)
- Revenue Camp and Extended Day: \$170,000 Expenses: \$90,000
- Surplus covers staffing salaries based on forecasting=successful summer
  - Camp/pool ratios was based on Covid restrictions
  - (1:10 ratio for older, 1:5 younger)
  - Wellington: Skip Camp shared space with other programs
  - Possible use of high school for next summer: Volleyball, Basketball camp
  - Family Survey of Skip Camp Staff:
    - Almost all families responded interest in returning for 2022
    - Enthusiastic, caring, passionate
    - Most families would like swim lessons again

**Underwood Pool:**

- 50% capacity planned March 2021 due to covid
- 1186 passes and (64 senior), no caregiver passes
- Nonresident passes capped at 105
- \$290,000 memberships, 20,699 scans from memberships
- Daily fees sold well but was a rainy summer (last week of August very quiet, but very busy)

**Labor Day weekend)**

- water heater pump broke mid-summer \$20,000
- Pool Survey: Lifeguards highly rated
- Pool Communication via email, social media
- Brandon and Chris seek staff input, and ask staff to do a self-reflection

**Questions:**

1. Should we re-evaluate making more non-resident passes available?
2. Will there be big maintenance costs for 2022? (Jon) The smaller pool is chipping. There are safeguards in the funds for a big maintenance issue in the pool and rink. We might have to plan for 10 years down the road. The fund is reserved for beautification and structures in the pool area for shade, etc. We cannot utilize that fund for regular maintenance.
3. The water table was high in the area next to the pool, and it was really smelly. (Brandon) Yes, the water drains from the hill and collects in that area, and becomes standing water.
4. Wondering about 12 hour shifts for the lifeguards during a heat wave? (Brandon) The schedule was modeled after other town pools, but we may change it next year.

**Higginbottom Pool is Open:**

- New Athletic Director Adam Pritchard.
- Will there be a separate entrance for recreation swim during the day?

**Permitting/Fee Schedule vs. Previous Field Permit Application:**

- Commission Members Anthony Ferrante and Steven Coelho are absent, so we will plan to address this issue at the next meeting.
- Fees: \$25/hour resident, \$50/hour non-resident
- Profit vs. Non-profit
- We currently rent picnic tables for birthday parties around town for \$25 for two hours
- Special Events Application is for larger group (50+) and sound requirements, etc. for time frames more than two hours (\*require 30 days in advance)
- Commission members can send suggestions to Brandon after looking at the form before next Meeting

**Trash in Parks:**

- Anthony requested it on agenda. Looking for creative solutions (ex. \$10 fee for Youth Soccer) or consider \$15 fee to pay for weekend cleanups? \$5 increase across all fees?
- Other suggestions included the use of Big Belly trash barrels, or recycling pizza boxes (possible service project for high school student)

**Skating Rink will open Nov 1 for Youth Hockey:**

- Fees: no secure place at the rink for collecting fees. Plan is to have skaters pre-register for ice times. If they show up, they can scan QR code and pay with phone instead.

- Possibility of opening skate rental shop in place of the snack bar (vendor is no longer providing the snack bar.)
- Suggestion for vending machines? Hot cocoa, coffee, K-cups

Next meeting:

- November 15, 5:30 pm (Melissa will be secretary)
- December 6, 5:30 pm
- January 10, 5:30 pm

Motion to Adjourn 7:26pm