

Recreation Commission Meeting

9/12/22

Zoom

DATE: October 25, 2022

TIME: 2:57 PM

Commission Attendees: Dave Kane, Dave Lind, Cortney Eldridge, Anne Helgen, Anthony Ferrante, Paul Cowing, Theresa O'Connor, Steven Colello

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts, Eric Abruzzi, Nicole Tripoli

Call to order 5:32pm

Minutes from Last Month:

In favor: Anthony, Cortney, Paul, Dave Lind

Abstain: Theresa, Anne Helgen, Steve

Intro to Nicole, youth coordinator

Higginbottom Pool Fees:

Last year recap:

- Voted on \$8.00 per (up to) two hours swim fee – no memberships; must prepurchase passes; was a little difficult to manage and received (negative) feedback on fee (too high)
- Revenue was \$8,600 for public swim; October through early May
- Dolphins Swim Team: 130 swimmers, \$37K
- S.P.O.R.T. swimming: nearly \$1K
- Swim Lessons – started in spring; 170 participants; just under \$13K
- Total pool revenue: \$65K

2022-23 proposal and discussion:

- Projected expenses roughly \$83K
- Membership tag (reuse Underwood tag); membership allows unlimited access
- Number of weeks available? If we set it at \$5.00, you'd have to go 18 times in order to "break even" for a \$90.00 individual pass
- Birthday parties, etc.? Not permitted
- Adult/masters early morning swim? Not permitted
- Only thing we are permitted to do is Dolphins swim team
- Reminder for Underwood fee is for the summer: \$350.00
- How many unique people we had/how many were repeats/how many sessions did people do?
 - Do not have this b/c we sold data passes b/c it was all through POS
- Can we consider an "upsell" for rink passes? There is a way to do this in the system; let's discuss
- For swim lessons: are you considering adult swim lessons?
 - Right now, still coordinating staff for swim lessons. Unsure if we have enough experienced WSIs who could teach adult swim lessons effectively.
- Belmont Aquatics Team (BAT) payment: unsure right now how much they're charging/how much they cost us; suggest getting a contact with the BAT
- Last year, tried to do swim lessons with public swim and did not go well – we will try to separate them this time so they do not share space
- Open swim hours:
 - Mon-Tues 8:30pm-9:30pm, Friday: 7pm-9:30pm; must be out of the facility by 9:30pm

- Saturday 11am-6pm
 - Sunday Noon-7pm
- Pool operations: November through April
- Rink is November through March
- Resident vs non-resident: Discussion on offering (or not) non-resident passes
- Conclusion: non-resident pass only available for day passes
- Discussion on trade-off and break-even; 10% discount for pricing when purchase both passes
 - Resident individual: \$90.00
 - Family (up to six people): \$150.00
 - Sr resident: \$50.00
 - Individual resident day pass: \$5.00
 - Individual non-resident day pass: \$8.00
 - Will have membership cards and scan in upon entry

Public Comment:

Ellen Schriber: I think we are getting to the point where we are pricing people out. Instead of buying a pass, I may pay for the few times I'd like to go and I do not think that's what we want to do.

Motion:

Move to accept Higginbottom membership fees in the fall/winter as proposed by Brandon and amended by the group to begin in the fall of 2022 and reviewed annually. A 10% discount will be applied for residents who purchase both rink and pool passes when purchased together.

Approved unanimously: Anne, David Lind, Anthony, Cortney, Steve, Theresa, David Kane, Paul

Current CPC Project Updates:

Winn Brook Tennis courts: Complete and installed! People are playing on them

Town Field:

- Construction will start Monday September 19th
- Construction will last through May 2023
- Will be offline all winter
- Will move pickleball courts to PQ Park during construction
- Fields will not be affected
- Any recreation programming that was to take place on Town Field courts will be moved to a new location – Recreation Department will send emails when new locations have been identified
- Updated design is on Belmont Recreation website

Payson Park:

- Construction to begin in the spring 2023
- Currently picking out equipment
- Will be offline through summer 2023
- Updated design is on Belmont Recreation website

Future CPA Projects:

Skate Park:

- Seetha Burtner, Ellen Schriber came to past Rec Commission meeting and lots of positive support, but lack of space in town
- Recommend CPA feasibility study for next round of CPA projects
- Brandon intends to submit CPA application for feasibility study for where/if we can put this in Town; next step will be design and then construction

Discussion (Commission):

- Looking forward to seeing if we can find a home for this – there are small plots of land around town and it doesn't need to be a square plot to put a skate park there
- Possible locations: near train tracks, Wellington, old Light Building
- Commission is generally in favor of feasibility study of where this might be able to place in Town
- Recommend including all wheeled sports

Discussion (public):

- Tim Bucciarelli: very interested and supportive – have kids that are aging out of it; the biggest thing is prioritization and figuring out what priorities are. Old incinerator site is being transitioned to solar. Do not feel strongly this needs to be centrally located. Could be “a destination”. Recommends looking at Hyde Park Skate Park – only 3000 square feet but they make it work.
- Ray Lemieux: In support of the idea; spot in front of Underwood might be a good place. (Note this is stormwater run-off.) Suggest considering pump track for all wheeled sports.
- Seetha Burtner: Appreciates all the support this is receiving. Would like to include all wheeled sports – skate boarding, scooters, inline skating, BMX.
- Eli Bak: Payson Park HS resident; been involved in action sports for 15 (of his 17) years and has traveled around to skate parks in the area. Recommends central location with a good design (otherwise kids will go otherwise). Lincoln Park in Somerville is also a good design. Recommend multiple skate spots around the town. One rail. One ramp. One ledge. Takes up less than 1/3 of a tennis court. Recommend having it close to a convenient store or other “cheap food” – will bring business.
- Paul Cowing: Reminder on CPA process and timeframe.

Underwood Park: Submitting for design and review work in September 2022

Grove Street: Currently doing design and review; will also have construction documents for next cycle (September 2022)

PQ Basketball Court:

- Part is damaged – was not redone when park was redone
- Will try to replace in kind – submitting for September 2022

Tennis/Pickleball Private Lessons:

- During construction for Town Field, suggest putting a hold on tennis lessons due to Pickleball being altered
- Will discuss next month

Dogs:

- Come up with a game plan for dog/field usage in town
- Suzanne, Animal Control is on maternity leave
- Paul, David Lind, Brandon to connect and come up with a game plan for how to promote and get public involved

Summer Camp Recap:

- Total of 702 campers (not individual campers—some repeats included); roughly 100 per week
- 196 extended day
- Total \$223K summer camp (excluding financial aid – about \$4K)
- Next year: might need to split into two campuses – getting too big for Wellington school

Underwood Pool Recap:

- Lots of hot days (worked well for our pool); heat effected enzymes in the pool and water was not as clear this year so diving pit had to be shut several times
- Sold 816 family memberships; 220 individuals, 187 seniors, 32 caregivers – 1200 members scanned to pool 34K times – 30K resident scans and 4K non-resident scans
- Nonfamily residents – 142 passes, 37 individual non-residents; we capped non-residents at 175 and 50, respectively – did not hit our cap
- Roughly \$413K revenue for memberships
- Roughly \$61K for day fees
- Total, including rentals, vending machines, swim teams, group lessons - \$515K total revenue

Other items

- Will go to Fall Town Meeting to change budget; discuss Enterprise Fund and budgeting
- Revenue currently goes to free cash
- Would like to move to 53e.5 and enterprise fund
- Anne's last meeting; position has been filled. Excited about all the work we've done

Next meetings

October 24th 5:30pm on Zoom

Adjourn 7:36pm