

DATE: October 21, 2021
TIME: 2:57 PM

Recreation Commission Meeting
9/13/2021
Zoom Meeting

Commission Attendees:

- Officers: Cortney Eldridge (chair), Anthony Ferrante (secretary), David Kane (CPC liaison), Paul Cowing (vice chair)
- Members: Steven Colello, Theresa O'Connor

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts (Assistant Recreation Director), Jon Marshall, Chris Costello, Frank Sartori, Jay Marcotte

Guest: Anita Mecklenburg (Winn Brook Principal)

Jamie Carroll, Jake Obid, Mitch Rosenfield, Steve Nicholas, several teams from Men's Softball represented, an umpire was on the phone.

5:35 pm call to order

Winn Brook School Park Request

- Wants sandwich boards to create time slots when Joey's Park is only available to Winn Brook students. Happy to keep tot lot open full time.
- Cortney: last year children's classes were not mixing. Is this still true? AM: at recess the students are now mixed. Expanded after school program which is also mixed. Masked inside but not outside.
- DK: What are ideal times to close off area? AM: first recess at 9:45 am, last recess is 2:15. On Wednesdays off completely by 1:45 pm.
- Not too many complaints last year. AM: last year went out to playground to clear outsiders.
- SC: Is this preventative? AM: proactively wants families to know before they got to park that it is closed. Concerned about security.
- DK: where is tot lot? AM: on tennis court side. Students not allowed on that equipment because it is not intended for that age.
- CE: who is using with school age kids? AM: there were people every day.

Moved: that the Winn Brook playground apart from the tot lot will be closed to non-Winn Brook students from 9:45 am to 2:15 pm Monday through Friday when school is in session. These rules shall be in place for the current school year (2021-2022).

Approved by a vote of 5-1.

Men's Softball

- BF: Wednesday September 8th received email and phone from Parks Dept that Concord Ave softball field was littered with trash. Men's Softball was last permitted group. Determined more than likely the Men's Softball league. Ended the season immediately resulting in cancellation of the last game (last playoff game).
- SC: How did we get here? What is discussion? Is there a formal appeals process? What is being asked of the Recreation Commission? JM: based on policies no alcohol, clean up trash. Have been some comments since JM made the decision to cancel that other groups came in after.

- AF: is this something we have seen on mornings when Men's Softball has not been on the field? Have seen this at other parks. Mostly not too bad at the Concord Ave park but a couple of incidents earlier in the year. Seems like there have been some incidents in other years that correlate with Men's Softball. This was Tuesday after Labor Day. Picked up Concord Ave around 3:30. Was told that field was picked up and ready.
- CM: was Men's Softball the only permitted group? BF: don't believe there were other permitted activities prior to Men's Softball.
- DK: used to play with Men's Softball and can't imagine them leaving beer cans on the field. Is there a carry-in carry-out policy we can add? JM: this is school property. Carry-in carry-out is the rule.
- Mitch Rosenfield: everyone wants the fields clean. Nobody would leave cans on the field. His team was the second game playing. Put their stuff in a trash bag and left it next to the trash can. Would be happy to chip in extra money to cover additional barrels. Have seen beer cans in the dugouts.
- Umpire (Steve Nicholas): has been officiating. There have been some incidents in the past but this year they have found beer cans in the dugouts when they arrive. The players don't throw beer cans on the field.
- CE: Jay, is it feasible to put out second barrel? FS: there are 3 barrels over there. 2 were empty at end of the day. Not enough staff to empty them after hours. JM: tried to implement carry-in carry-out, tried more barrels, tried more frequent emptying. The only way to resolve this is to monitor trash barrels at all times. MR: thought the barrels were going to be emptied.
- Jake Obid: spoke with Jon on Friday. This is first year. Leaving the bag was a mistake. If we play this week and take the trash home will that work? Willing to do what it takes to make it work.
- Peter Cohen (Bombers): Tree Sluggers did bring trash bags and when they showed up trash was overflowing. Softball players respect the field and don't throw stuff in the fields. Trash was overflowing. Can carry out.
- TO'C: might be unfair to speculate that softball players left the trash on the fields. Used to have guys rent gym and she had found beer cans under the bleachers. Had a conversation then the problem was resolved.
- DK: is there a dumpster? FS: yes, over by the rink. CE: is Frank on board with them tossing the trash bags in the dumpster? FS: yes. JM: yes.
- JM: Frank only has 4 guys to manage all parks and all trash in the parks. Doesn't have the resources to do pick up all the time. Barrels are getting overfilled and people are leaving stuff next to them. It is not fair to Frank and his guys to pick up after people.
- PC: League is a separate entity? BF: no, it is an official Rec program. Need more communication. Need to communicate more clearly that there was trash there when they got there.
- CE: Softball has arrived to garbage that is not theirs and are willing to clean up. Leave it better than you found it. Need better communication with teams and league. Wants conversation at future meeting. Leaning toward having them come back and play the last set of games. Can we offer them a night? JM: need to coordinate with the schools for a time to slot the game in that would work. If there is a way it makes sense to try to get the last game. Likes Jake's idea for carry-in carry-out. Could only go with what they can see.
- Mitch Rosenfield: they have three games remaining scheduled for one night.
- BF: can try to figure something out. Will work with Chris to find a solution.

Tree Warden

- JM: a member of the COA passed away, Mark F. Clark. Last project was Grove Street. Family wants to donate a tree for him. Process: ask to donate, Shade Tree Committee, Rec Commission, donated as a gift – goes to the Select Board.
- Just on radar for now. Will come back with a plan to next weekend.

Project Updates

- Town Field (CE): All bids came in well over budget. COVID has disrupted supply chains. Looking at a possible emergency funding request to CPC.
- CE: will pricing stabilize?
- DK: could possibly ask for the additional \$250K as an off-cycle request. JM: can CPC look at this as another phase? DK will talk to Elizabeth Dionne.
- John Umina: part of playground renovation was tennis/pickleball courts. Could we eliminate the courts from the project? CE: doesn't work with the project as designed. JM: if take anything out have to go back to all the bidders for requote.
- AF: when is Special Town Meeting? Isn't going to be one this year.
- Tennis Courts (BF): No one bid on it. Not happening this Fall. Go back out to bid this Spring.

Program Updates

- Brandon: we are now the home of adult education.

New Recreation Commission Secretary Vote

- Hoping to fill Marsha's seat. Anne and Melissa not here.
- Perhaps we can rotate the position – perhaps a two-month cycle?
- Raise again next meeting. Theresa will do it next meeting.

Review/Approve Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from 8/10.
- Approved unanimously as amended to correct spelling of Cortney's name.
- Minutes from 8/30
- Approved with 4 yes(es) with 2 abstentions

Next meetings:

October 18th at 5:30

November 15th at 5:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:39.