

Recreation Commission Meeting

9/17/19

Homer Building Art Gallery

2019 OCT 21 PM 2:08

Commission Attendees: Anthony Ferrante, Marsha Samuels, Anne Helgen, Cortney Eldridge, Kathy Jones, Mary Bradley, Dave Kane

Town Attendees: Jon Marshall, Chris Costello

Discussion: Town Adult Sports Programs

Jon:

introduced challenges of space and time, cost (e.g., custodial, space restrictions, elementary school physical size vs the Field House we have had access to in the past)

Previously, 3 activities plus the pool = one custodial fee; now 1 activity = 1 custodial fee

Chris:

Discussed current registrations for the various adult sports programs (soccer, volleyball, basketball, pickleball)

Q&A:

Q: Can we use the new gym at Belmont Day?

Jon: We have one night there.

Q: Do we need custodial service for the entire period?

Jon: Yes

Q: Can the town contribute payments to offset this?

Jon: We generally balance the budget; we must rent pool and other space and there is not a lot left after that

Q: Read a statement prepared ahead of time on behalf of/with support from adult soccer, expressing frustrations with increased costs and smaller spaces.

Anthony: Is there an opportunity to suggest/promote partnerships with surrounding towns?

Jon: Having registration commitments would help us understand how many people we need to accommodate.

Response: We self-regulate. We can't all always come. If there are too many people, we sub in/out.

Having fewer days, fewer hours, higher costs, and a cap on attendees is unacceptable. There's a lot of interest but people are going elsewhere.

Q: What's the max height at Butler (gym)?

A: Similar to the upper gym at the HS.

Comment: The floor of the gym at Butler is dangerous.

Q: Read a statement of prepared remarks on behalf of/with support from pickleball, expressing frustrations of max players per court vs the number of people who show up. Can we consider a resident vs non-resident fee? Consider a senior rate?

Q: Are these fees permanent or will they go back to what they were in 4 years [when the HS fields are done]?

Jon: Hard to determine but we do want to go back into the schools when the space is available.

Q: Some issues we have are that [the town] eliminated drop-ins, the facilities, the fees are too high; for soccer, about 20 show up (the roster has about 50); for volleyball – drop ins are how this all works. Not everybody can make it every week.

Q from Commission: How do you/do you take attendance?

A from town: we take at the entrance/when people arrive

Q: Has there been any conversation with the school department [on how to/where to find more space]?

A: Let's separate school (cost) and space issues. Let's also assess non-resident enrollment.

Comment: The fee structure means there's no women's program. Are we open to co-ed? Basketball is co-ed.

Q: What moved from the upstairs gym to the downstairs gym?

A: Wrestling, JV sports.

Comment: Don't want to alienate non-residents with different cost structures.

Commission: Thank you all for attending and providing feedback.

Wrap-up and options:

1. Leave everything as-is (not desirable)
2. Move to suggestions/pricing Jon presented
3. \$10 to drop in

Motion: Change the cost structure and communicate why cost structure is changing. Establish a \$10 drop-in fee for any non-registered individual. [Town to] reach out to sports leagues to determine what ideal cap is for enrollment.

6 in favor.

Discussion: Payson Park Bandstand

Guest: Tomi Olson

Tomi would like to hold a large public meeting in October to present options for the Band Stand. She was unable to attend the Town Meeting in April and would like to speak to as many abutters and other residents who use the bandstand to gather feedback and concerns.

Key issues to identify/discuss: safety (for children); cost

Proposed joining 10/15 meeting; Jon to follow up with Jay to confirm.