

Town of Westborough Recreation Department

Recreation Commission

Date: Tuesday, March 1st 2022

Location: Zoom (Virtual)

Convened: 6:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:28 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Recreation Director Jennifer Kirkland, Program Coordinator Josh Aponte, Finance Committee Liaison Andrew Bradley, Liaison to the Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee Colleen Dowd, Bill Clausen, Brian Kane, Katie Welch, and Administrative Assistant Grethel Guzman-Ruck.

Committee Member Absent: Commission Chair Earl Storey, Golf Course Manager Matt Griffith, Bethany Travis.

Approve Minutes: December 7th, December 20th, January 25th

Bill made a motion to approve the minutes from December 7th 2021, December 20th 2021, January 25th 2022 and Brian seconded the motion. Bill did note that he would like us to look into the Positive Coaching Alliance mentioned in the January 25th minutes. Jenn agreed that she would.

Approve New Motto

Grethel presented the current motto, “*PLAY MORE!*” and suggested changing it to: “*Westborough Recreation: Play More!*”

Approve New Mission Statement

Grethel presented the current motto, “*We work to offer the opportunity to everyone of all ages and abilities to live by that motto. We strive to offer fun, quality, programming in all areas of recreation.*” and suggested changing it to: “*The Westborough Recreation Department operates and oversees a dynamic array of programs, events, playgrounds, parks, fields, and even a golf course! We strive to serve all of our residents and encourage every one of all ages and abilities to engage with our lively sports, creative programs, and remarkable facilities. PLAY MORE — with us!*” It was suggested to change “*with us!*” in the final sentence to “*Westborough!*” and to change “*every one*” as it was presented in the penultimate sentence, to one word.

Brian made a motion to approve the new motto and the new mission statement with the two adjustments and Bill seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0. The new mission statement is now: “*The Westborough Recreation Department operates and oversees a dynamic array of programs, events, playgrounds, parks, fields, and even a golf course! We strive to serve all of our residents and encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to engage with our lively*”

sports, creative programs, and remarkable facilities. PLAY MORE — Westborough!” and our new moto will be “*Westborough Recreation: Play More!*”

Golf Course Open Discussion

Jenn remarked that Matt was thinking about making a program that would improve and develop kids’ golfing skills. Commission members also wanted to know what the revenue for the tee time was. Katie also asked what we would be using once we stop using Golf Now. Because Matt was not present, Jenn said it was best to have Matt present tee time popularity, revenue, and golf software usage next time. Jenn did note that she does not believe that there are huge gaps in our tee time usage and that we are selling most of our slots. Andrew noted that inventory management influences how revenue is used.

Jenn also mentioned that Charles W. Harris will be used to repair the pump system since they were the lowest bidder. Jenn also mentioned that we will be going to Town Meeting for the mowers for the golf course.

Program Update

Colleen suggested we put a porta-potty at Haskell because it is a busy spot. Jenn said that they should connect afterwards because it is a great suggestion.

Jenn went over the opening days for registrations. She said that the first day of registrations for spring and summer events went very smoothly but the second day, which was opening day for registrations for extreme rec and pee-wee playground, was frenetic. MyRec, which is the website we use to take registrations, had crashed in the morning, so we decided to open registration again the next day.

Jenn concluded also by saying that basketball is wrapping up, that we are going to be looking for a waterfront director, and that we will also start looking for summer programs staff.

Brian inquired about offering boxing as a program or even looking into RAD and Colleen noted that she may know of someone that would be able to teach a boxing program for kids.

Bill inquired as to how much fireworks were. Jenn said that she was not directly involved with the last time that fireworks were used in the town. Bill suggested doing a drone show (or perhaps he said it is called an illuminating show) in place of fireworks if it is cheaper.

Andrew also wanted to go over the warrants for Sandra pond which we confirmed is the same as it is every year. Andrew also went over zoning laws and the impact it could have on a potential dog park.

Adopt New Fields Policy – Vote

Jenn went over the Fields Policy with new edits. Andrew suggested adding a refundable deposit on top of the fee to use the facilities. Jenn noted that there is currently a refundable deposit in place but that she will add it to the fields policy. The refundable fee will be used when there is damage to the facility after usage, which is not usually a problem. Brian suggested also adding the basketball courts to the facilities that can be reserved. Jenn said that she would add this also to the Fields Policy. She noted that tennis courts and pickle ball courts are frequently used so these courts should not be added to the Fields Policy.

Bill made the motion to approve the new Fields Policy with the edits discussed and Andrew seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0.

Tree Donation

The Garden Club is looking to donate a tree or two and Jenn wanted to know if anyone had any suggestions as to where to put the tree(s). Jenn mentioned that perhaps putting a tree near the state hospital would be a good idea. Katie inquired as to what kind of tree we would be receiving. Jenn said that she would look further into it such as the size and if it is a flowering tree. If the tree is a blooming tree, it will also mean more maintenance. Andrew suggested working with the schools in finding a spot for the tree(s) as there may be some good educational value in planting that tree with the schools. Brian suggested speaking with the DPW since Arbor Day is around the corner and because the DPW does have to remove trees and always have to look at where to put the trees.

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be April 5th at 6:30 and Jenn announced that we are able to meet in person again.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Andrew made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Rec. Commission approved these minutes on Tuesday, April 28th, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grethel Guzman-Ruck