



Parks & Recreation Committee

Minutes to Meeting Held on January 23, 2023, 7:00pm (Virtual)

In attendance: Brianna Doo, Sarah Chester, Margit Griffith, Thornton Ring, Anita Spieth (Chair), Robert Stringer; Staff: Jessica Downing, David Sequeira

I Discussions

- Committee Terms Discussion
 - Margit rolling off PRC - need to fill the appointed position
 - Travis Roland, Evan Gorman, David Bruenner
 - Travis should reach-out to Jessica to touch base
 - Then appointment will happen through Select Board
- Annual Report 2023
 - Included in meeting packet
 - Re-formatting committee membership
 - Add rink to the facilities
 - Further mention of PRD's collaboration with MCC re: summer camp
 - PRC voted unanimously to approve report with minor edits.

II Facilities

- Athletic Fields and Parks
 - Confirmed the fence being left up around Brooks until the end of June, will see if temp fencing will be needed past that time
- Tennis Courts
 - Maintenance contract is up this year; reviewing the contract and will send it out/open up bidding w/i the next month
 - It's hard to find companies to quote on clay courts, so hoping to find a broader field of companies to bid.
- Ice Rink (40x80, nice and level)
 - Hasn't been a great season so far; it's just been too warm
 - Hoping it will freeze by the weekend
 - Hoping the rink will be skatable during Winter Carnival (see discussion about alternative activity in Winter Carnival notes)

III Programming

- Winter Programming/Enrollment
 - Winter programming started; a few have waitlists
 - A few new programs added and trying out
 - ASL has 12-13 participants!
 - Collaborate with CoA on programs
 - Nashoba ski is happening again after a few years; miraculously, they've got enough snow; only one bus to Nashoba because of low staff at Nashoba (have 36, usually have 96)
 - Numbers seem a bit low compared to other years... Nashoba low staff, loss of B Pod noted
 - Brainstorming on intergenerational activities and/or events; paring children and seniors

- Summer Camp
 - Registration opens Feb 8th
 - Postcard reminder sent
 - Staffing; some folks coming back, looking at those numbers
 - Taking a look at staffing roles, and coverage in the morning and afternoon
 - MCC committed \$20,000 for financial aid
 - Public has donated \$2,900 just from the winter brochure
- Pool
 - Taking a look at pool director and swim team director roles and responsibilities to address feedback from surveys and from PRC; maybe looking at adding an assistant director (21 yrs older)
 - Reaching out to all returning staff on February 1
- Outstanding Balance Report (included in meeting packet)
 - Slightly higher than usual compared to other Januarys; Laurie continues to chip away
 - Camp registration opens and the OBR will jump (people pay a deposit, and balance sits there through the summer as people pay for camp)
 - ? what happens to money that's been on the books so long it's pretty obvious that we're not going to collect (despite acknowledge best and excellent efforts); "gone but not forgotten" vibe?; is there a policy in place for what to do with old balances? (on accounts when people have not been active for a while)
- Public Events
 - Winter Carnival
 - Mailer with full schedule went out, also available online
 - Lots of participation from town organizations (PTO Bingo back, LincFam Energy Blaster back - new: Garden Club concert at Pierce; Bemis Concert Series running concert at school)
 - Coffee House
 - Set up on Friday - please let Jessica know if you're available 3pm; and/or with clean-up
 - 12 tables sold out; selling individual tickets
 - Ice Skating - if the ice doesn't freeze (it looks like it's likely to, but not guaranteed) what can we do instead? Polar Plunge in the 5" of freezing water? Capture the Flag?
 - Lights for rink? string lights? post lights? LLCT or Tack Room has posts in cement buckets we might be able to borrow?

IV Finances

- CapCom update
 - Pool slide approved by CapCom to be presented at Town Meeting
- Review FY23 November Finance Report (included in packet)
 - Rise in expenses (minimum wage increase, contracted services rising)
- Department Turnover Sheets Review and Signature
 - Someone please stop by to sign them

V Other Topics

- Committee Updates
 - Community Center Building Committee
 - The RFP for an architect have gone out; meeting with some architects beginning next week; hoping to choose a finalist Feb 22nd when CCBC meet
 - Community Preservation
 - Thornton: meeting for the season in prep for Town Meeting; looking over requests from around town (Library: leaky roof; preserve docs)
 - School Building Committee
 - Just finishing up, working on the punch list
 - B Pod should be available this coming summer

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
 - Update to master plan attached with meeting packet
 - WalkBikeRoll to School in May planned
- Open Committee Comment
 - 21 Day – AIDE Challenge
 - Jess Rose/schools doing the challenge, doing a little something every day toward AIDE work (small, medium or large); raise awareness and be more mindful
 - PRC voted unanimously to take part
 - Jessica D will reach out to Jess Rose to sign up and share PRC emails
 - Something to donate to Bingo Night? PRD swag and a premium parking and seating space at the 4th of July parade; Jessica and David are on it
- Next Meetings: February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26

VII Review minutes and Calendar

- Review and approve December 19, 2022 meeting minutes and review committee calendar
 - Meeting header says "Agenda" should say "Minutes"
 - Approved unanimously with edits noted
- Review of Parks and Rec yearly calendar... what's on the radar
 - Did not run the Sunday River trip this year (company contracted with wasn't in good shape to make it happen - it was going to be hard to manage this year - also spikes and dips in Covid - looking toward next year)

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm