



Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes to Virtual Meeting Held on April 24, 2023

Staff: Jessica Downing, David Sequeira

Committee Members: Anita Spieth - Chair, Sarah Chester, Thornton Ring, Margit Griffith, Rob Stringer (minutes)

Guests: Nancy Donaldson and Donna Johnson

Discussions/Decisions:

- Financial Aid Conversation
 - New guidelines for awarding financial aid. \$79,205 requested, \$54,375 awarded.
 - Boston resident ~\$52K requested, ~\$34K awarded/approved.
 - MCC donating \$20K, Codman Trust \$15K, Public donations \$6,279. Still hoping to secure \$4K from First Parish
 - Total for approval: \$13,096
 - Discussion about communication with families regarding change in calculations of award since some may be paying this year that in previous years were not.
 - Communicate to Marika and MCC for all new families.
 - Ring moved to approved financial aid as written, Spieth seconded, unanimous approval
 - Follow on discussion about why the change. We made the system more equitable in 2022, 2023 we looked at financial impact since aid request has increased 10x in 5 years
- Tennis
 - Discussion of edits to Team Application, including guests, Nancy and Donna
 - Confirmed only allowed one reschedule if courts unplayable, otherwise reimburse
 - Guests voiced concerns about gates and trees. both will be addressed in capital planning below. Middle gate now unusable due to SBC parking lot change. Same with the far (court 6) gate.
 - Jessica to talk with Facilities to see how to get the gates usable.
 - Stringer moved to accept edits as written, Spieth seconded, unanimous approval.
- 5 year Capital Plan (not 10 years)
 - Slide approved
 - Tennis issues (see above) moved ahead of Brooks Field irrigation.
 - Question on truck cost and PRD's share of cost. Jessica to check and edit the \$\$
 - Ring raised issues with gates and field due to new school. Wondered why PRD has to foot the bill for things that were not done with users in mind.
 - Ring and Griffith to draft a letter with Downing to itemize and detail things that impact PRD and will require town funding to fix to make usable.
 - Chester moved to accept 5 year plan, Ring seconds, unanimous approval.
 - Discussion on having a strategic planning session at Pierce House over the summer to help with planning process.

Facilities:

- Tennis
 - Opening May 1st
 - Letters going out to members this week
- Playgrounds
 - Blue and Red were closed to install new chips, thanks to SBC. Red playground still needs raking, not as smooth as it will be once the chips settle.
- Athletic Fields:
 - Open – Smith being reviewed: drain issue covered. Grading issue for line from end of building area needs to be addressed before field is usable. Contractor wants to put up a fence around new area to protect growing grass. Things are changing and PRD is not at the meetings. Spieth to attend next SBC meeting on behalf of the PRC to voice concerns noted above. (May 10th)
- Pool:
 - Cover off this week, woo hooo!!
 - Changing drain covers to comply with BoH, cost is ~\$3K, should last 7 years.
 - Scheduling inspection, worked on all items from pool closing inspection from last year
 - Getting a new freezer
 - Discussion on dealing with high traffic areas that become muddy as season progresses. David to review pre-COVID plans.

Programming:

- **Spring Programming:** Numbers are not complete yet but looking good.
 - We are back in B-pod
 - Camp # are doing well.
 - Early riser and extended day are back to pre-pandemic levels
 - Staffing is a struggle. Still looking for counselors, 16+ yo
 - Surprising programs: ESL, Home Alone Safety both overperforming.
- **Outstanding Balances:** in good shape, camp is causing the # to be high. Swim Team is also a slight concern.
- **Public Events**
 - 8th Grade Pool Party is scheduled for June 22nd, rain date, evening of June 25th
 - Triathlon is scheduled for June 24th, meeting Wednesday to discuss details
 - Memorial Day, May 29th – still need speaker. Working with Peter from Veteran's Services and Tom Risser. Police and Public Safety to run BBQ. Mailing to come out next week or so.
 - 4th of July: Race, Parade, Pool open. Unsure of if there will be a BBQ. Checking with Boy Scouts.
 - State of the Town, Sept 30th, on School Campus, Details still TBD, but most likely looking for PRD to provide daytime activities/distractions and manage food (trucks) for a day of discussing CCBC, IDEA, Climate Action Plan and Housing Choice Act plans pre-special town meeting.
 - Fall Fest- band is booked, looking to improve activities for 5th – 8th graders.
 - Haunted House probably too much work to add to the mix.

Finances:

- Review of February numbers, outstanding balances, and request to sign turn over sheets. Nothing of note.

Other Topics:

- PRC Seat update
 - o David Wegman applied to be member. Vote was to be tonight in Select meeting
- Committee Updates
 - o CCBC Meeting on 25th and 26th. 25th is Open Forum to hear architects present information based on interviews they've done. Still gathering information. 26th meeting is more detail. So far received 600 responses for their survey. Should have preliminary designs for 3 options by end of June.
 - o BPAC looking for new liason. Bike, Walk, Roll to School week is May 1-5.
 - o CPC, nothing of note
 - o SBC, see above. Spieth to attend next SBC meeting
- Open Comment:
 - o Spieth asked about Disc Golf on Pierce Park or other PRD property.

Previous Minutes:

- Minutes from the February and March meetings were reviewed and approved. Stringer abstained from Feb voting, Griffith abstained from March voting, otherwise all in favor and approved.

Next meeting May 22, 2023

Minutes submitted: RAS III