

Barrington, NH Recreation Commission Minutes

April 26th, 2021

Present: Dale Sylvia, Steve Graves, Jim Noble, Jessica Tennis, Sarah Bailey, and Alex McCormack-Kuhman

Guests:

Select Board Liaison: Not in attendance

Absent: Doug Langdon, Hildi Ahee

Call to Order: Dale Sylvia called the meeting to order at 6:05PM, Jim Noble seconded, vote unanimous.

Old Business: Jessie motioned to accept the March minutes. There was not a quorum due to Doug and Hildi's absence. The acceptance of the March minutes was pushed to the May 17th rec commission meeting.

New Business:

Revolving Fund beginning balance: \$541,675.59 Ending balance: \$576,551.87

Program Report: Alex explained that there has been no change in the adult fitness programs. After speaking with our instructor, she is still uncomfortable running programs and will eye a return to Yoga and Pilates in the fall. Men's basketball is currently the only adult drop-in program running with no change in participation numbers from February. Alex discussed the two youth sports programs that began in March, Kindergarten T-ball and Old School PE. There have been multiple new enrollments in before/aftercare, but our maximum numbers have not increased. The department also hosted a kid's day off camp in March. Alex discussed the multi-week egg hunt event the rec department hosted. We had 188 participants in the challenge and 1,475 individual scans. Based upon the events success and positive reception from the community, we will aim to include this in our annual Easter event.

Alex informed the commission of the TREX Recycling challenge. Starting April 1st, we have challenged the community to collect 500lbs of plastic films in a 6-month span. Upon meeting that goal, TREX will provide our community a park bench made from those same plastics. We have posted graphics and signage around town explaining what is and isn't eligible as "plastic films". We have posted white collection bins at the Rec Gym, Transfer Station, and Town Hall. After 3 weeks of the program, we have collected a total of 35lbs of plastics.

Program Update: Jessie updated the commission on summer camp registration. On April 14th, we ran a lottery draft to determine who would receive spots at camp this year. We were able to accept all 89 of our registrants for summer camp.

Jessie informed the commission of the current status of adult drop-in programs and our search for a new evening and weekend supervisor. We interviewed and offered a position to a candidate and moved to get them started in April. Though the candidate initially accepted the position, they had to retract due to unexpected health concerns. The department has resumed the search to fill the position. Jessie explained that without an evening and weekend supervisor, we do not have the staff to begin offering

adult drop-in programs like volleyball and pickleball. When we are able to fill that position, we will resume all adult drop in programs.

Recreation Projects:

Jessie spoke to the commission regarding the office addition project. Jessie and Sarah feel the office addition is not currently aligned with the departments needs. Jessie believes it would be more beneficial to shift focus to smaller projects in the existing building. These small projects would include the fire separation and gym walls, gym floor, bleachers, playground shade structures, a new pavilion and storage shed. Sarah provided an estimated budget including the costs for all projects listed above, the four quarterly bills and projected revenues for before/aftercare, summer camp, and youth programs. The budget showed that all projects could be completed in the 2021 year for an estimated \$272,500.00, leaving \$261,474.33 left in the revolving fund.

Sarah also referred to the Redemption Rd. project and how these small projects align with that vision for the department. Dale questioned the projected costs of certain line items in Sarah's proposal. Steve believes the current state of the construction industry and the larger-than-projected cost for the addition will not change within the next year. Jessie explained she would like to the commission members to vote this evening on moving forward with the smaller projects and abandoning the office addition. The present board members were in agreement to push for more information on the smaller projects, but would not vote to approve abandoning the addition project until all commission members were present.

Dale questioned whether the projected \$261,474.33 remaining in the revolving fund following the completion of all projects would raise any issues with the select board regarding our Redemption Rd. presentation. Jessie confirmed her presentation with the Select Board did not discuss any funding for the project and included only a plan on how we would like to approach the project in the near future.

Steve expressed hesitation to call the updated rec offices "complete" without having completed summer camp. He believes, though updates have been made, it doesn't change the amount of space we have allocated for staff. Jessie agreed we are still limited in space, but feels funds are better allocated towards the smaller projects. She shared based upon summer camp schedule and structure, we will not have a mass in-flux of camp staff in our offices as we have in years past. However Jessie has explored alternative options to provide additional storage and break space for summer camp staff if issues arise.

Jim and Dale asked which of the small projects should be addressed first so they are prepared before holding the vote in the May meeting. Jessie felt the playground shade structures should be first on the list of projects to be approved, followed by the gym walls. Steve mentioned if we are addressing the gym walls, we should also update the plexi-glass portion of the walls. Dale agreed but proposed it be addressed in a different RFP than the fire separation and gym walls. The present commission members will review the proposed smaller projects for further discussion and voting in the May 17th meeting.

Jessie informed the commission we have been completing clean up around the rec building, specifically around the dumpster in our front parking lot. Jessie informed the commission that we ordered playground chips and had them dispersed on April 20th. Jessie and Dale discussed the removal of the old playground slides.

Jessie informed the commission of the special parade we will be hosting Sunday May 2nd for one of our staff members.

Steve motioned to go non-public for reputation at 6:47PM, Dale seconded, vote unanimous.

Dale motioned to come out of non-public at 6:54pm, Steve seconded, vote unanimous.

Dale motioned to seal the non-public minutes, Jim seconded, vote unanimous.

Steve motioned to adjourn at 6:56pm, Dale seconded, vote unanimous.




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