



CONCORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday March 30, 2021

Location: Zoom Meeting Call – Meeting ID: 89369109167, Passcode: 696981

Present: Casey Atkins, Chair and Voting Member (April 2022, 2nd term)
Paul Grasso, Voting Member (April 2021, 2nd term)
Jennifer Lutz, Voting Member (June 2022, 1st term)
Paul Boehm, Voting Member (end of the month following 2023 Town Meeting, 1st term)
Pete Funkhouser (February 2023, 1st term)
Anna McKeown, Interim Recreation Director
Andy Dutton, Beede General Manager
Matt Johnson, Select Board Liaison
Dick Jamison, Finance Committee Liaison

Not Present: Paul Grasso, Voting Member (April 2021, 2nd term)

Meeting Start: Called to order at 7:08P

Recreation Committee Chair

Ms. Atkins as the Recreation Committee Chair called a roll-call.

Approval of Minutes from Recreation Commission meeting on February 23, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Grasso. Second by Mr. Funkhouser. All in favor.

Maureen Taggart Award

Ms. McKeown announced that Thomas Grehan has been named the 2021 recipient with Open Table as his charity. The Hunt Recreation Center has a plaque dedicated to yearly Recreation Department award.

Public Input - none

Middle School Building Committee Presentation

Charged by the Select Board to undertake a Feasibility Study to explore the construction of a single new Middle School Building to replace the two existing facilities. The Committee was charged to begin the schematic design process for a new school building based on the findings of the Feasibility Study. Funding for the Feasibility and Schematic Design was approved under Article 14 at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. The cost of the project cost range of 80-100 million for 700 students with a team teaching model. The Middle School Building Committee shall be the point of contact for all community groups for all issues regarding the project. The Committee shall ensure community engagement throughout the planning and execution of the final design and construction. The Middle School Building Committee shared that the building will be a community location with separation points for individual programming during non-academic hours. Ms. McKeown shared that offered gymnasium spaces and art rooms would be used for Recreation programming. With the project having different demographic access goals, the overall concept was supported by the Recreation Commission. Mr. Jamison highlighted that an additional revenue stream would be valuable, and Ms. McKeown ask that future meetings happen to solidify and define Middle School Building access by Recreation.

Middle School Letter of Support

Ms. McKeown presented a first draft that included data from the 2014 Recreation Facilities Strategy's Plan. Mr. Grasso provided edits related to shortening, reordering information and talking about shared resources.



Ms. Atkins asked for new draft is written that incorporates edits and a note about cost. Mr. Jonson asked that revenue streams be defined. Motion by Ms. Atkins to complete letter of support. Second by Mr. Grasso. All in favor.

Recreation Staffing

Ms. McKeown noted that the new position of Aquatics Director will replace Program Manager at the Beede Center. Interviews will start with Zoom phone screening. Ms. Atkins and Kate Hodges scheduled to be involved.

Operations Report

Beede

Mr. Dutton noted that spring aquatics programs started the week of March 29 with good participation numbers. Group Exercise programming is flat with limited spaces during these pandemic times. Facilities support continues with new cameras, building inspections and pool mechanics. Membership continues to grow with open doors and COVID friendly programming. The reinstruction of general public entry with 10x passes slated for the near future. Mr. Johnson asked about losses related to FY21, and Mr. Dutton noted the \$650,000 loss is the current FY21 projection with cost saving coming for no general fund transfers and limited capital expenses, with a depreciation expense of \$380,000 still being supported. Ms. McKeown shared cost savings with a postcard mailing to advertise Spring 2021 versus the extra cost associated with a large brochure.

Hunt

Ms. McKeown noted that large special events are not slated to happen. The Recreation Department is working to created smaller events with a family focus. Borden Buster pieces happened in January and February. The virtual Shamrock Ball was well attended. Drive through Easter egg event at a Concord school scheduled. Fishing Derby and mother-son event in May and June. Adult basketball will starts again in April. Volleyball expanded to two nights. Summer lacrosse is back with its good revues. Youth participation numbers are strong with limited numbers. Renovation plan at Emerson Field will be challenging. New summer camp regulations will be beneficial. Schools back to in-person learning have reduced programing needs/revenues with staff transfers happening to the school system. Fall 2021 school year programs enrollment is on-going and numbers are strong. Laurie Hunter is a star.

Victors Center

Ms. McKeown noted that the hours are back to five days a week around Patriot's Day. New tours and new advertising opportunities for local businesses. Daily walking tours are back.

Reports from Liaison

Mr. Johnson (Select Board) noted that the Middle School work is very active with the federal COVID allocation being looked at. Mr. Jamison (Finance Committee) asked for Middle School proposals assistance, copy of letter of support.

Public Input - none

Old Business

Ms. McKeown shared Administrative Code changes with note about an update to the date. Motion by Ms. Atkins to approved revisions. Second by Mr. Boehm. All in favor.

The next Recreation Commission Meeting will be held as a Zoom Meeting Call on Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00P. Ms. Atkins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:54P. Second by Mr. Funkhouser. All in favor. Minutes taken by Andy Dutton.