

Town of Westborough Recreation Department

Recreation Commission

Date: Tuesday November 15, 2022

Location: Forbes Building, Room #207

Convened: 6:32 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:23 p.m.

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

Committee Members Absent: Commission Chair Earl Storey and Brian Kane.

Approve Minutes: October 26, 2022

Bill made the motion to approve the minutes from October 26, and Beth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the minutes from October 26 were approved.

Golf Course: Updates

The Golf course is going great. It's getting darker earlier. Matt also mentioned the new Golf Now Contract we have. He explained that the main difference has to do with the revenues we receive from Golf Now 'Hot Deals.' Players that take advantage of the 'Hot Deals' will have to purchase a \$20.00 minimum instead of \$9.00 they were able to do. He also wanted to limit the number of 'Hot Deals' that were available through golf now. The new limits would be one 'Hot Deals' every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as well as only three 'Hot Deals' on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Jenn mentioned that we are still looking at where we would be placing a golf simulator. Jenn also mentioned that Civic Kitchen is currently close and that we do not know what will happen with the space.

Golf Membership Increase // VOTE

Matt recapitulated the information from last meeting explaining that the reason for the membership increase is due to costs. Jenn added that we are the only town around that offer a senior (age 65+) and a legacy (age 70+) rate. Bill asked we had any idea of how many memberships we may lose due to the potential membership increase. Matt explained that the impact should not be so big and reiterated that he is proposing for a residential membership increase of 5% and a non-resident membership increase of 7%. He also added that the lease on the golf carts ends in four years and that is when we will be able to look into a price change for carts.

Bethany made the motion to approve the 5% increase in membership fee for the golf course for residents and a 7% increase in membership fee for the golf course for non-residents. Colleen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Recreation: Updates

We are in the basketball season and numbers are trending down. To join the travel team requires a lot of commitment; they practice twice a week and play a game as well. To add rec basketball on top of that for families is already too much. Colleen also mentioned that Travel is not the only program that may be affecting our numbers. She mentioned churches in Worcester that also offer basketball programs and they start before we even get to put out our information. We currently have 8 high school teams and we hopefully are able to make 12 high school teams. Jenn mentioned that we are using an assigner this year, for referees and we get a schedule as well. It takes out the complications of trying to coordinate and create a schedule ourselves.

The Winter Stroll is on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This is where businesses have special activities or deals for residents. The light parade will be at around 5:00pm and the Rotary Club tree lighting will be at 6:00pm.

Currently we have a bus for middle school kids that have joined our ski program but we do not have enough interest and sign-ups from high school kids. It takes time to go to both schools and pick up children so due to the numbers, we will not be having the Ski and Snowboard program for High School students.

The Dog Park grant has been written and we will be applying by the end of the month. We are also going to be building a second Cricket pitch at the Chauncy fields.

Bill mentioned that we should have a high schooler, perhaps a Junior Participant join these meetings and the committee. It is important that we have their opinions and it would also benefit them as well. Bill also inquired about what we are going to do about lifeguards once it is time to recruit. Jenn mentioned that we are looking into perhaps offering a class and specific verbiage we may have to use to promote it and encourage people that sign up for the classes with us to also work for us in the summer.

Bill also asked about perhaps offering tours and having destinations such as Fenway. Josh added that the prices for charter busses are so expensive. Jenn mentioned that they once did tickets to a Red Sox game and they could not get enough interest. She speculated that perhaps it is because Fenway is so close and accessible to us that it doesn't seem so appealing. He suggested perhaps doing a Westborough night at Polar Park in Worcester.

Bill mentioned the Positive Coaching Alliance. Colleen said that Youth Sports were also interested in having them but Colleen could not get in touch with them. Jenn also reiterated the same issue. Bill said that he would try to get a contact for us.

Affordable Trustees // VOTE

We will have more information next meeting in regards to having a liaison to the Affordable Housing of Trustees.

Next Meeting/Meeting Adjournment at 7:23 p.m.

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6th. Colleen made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Bill seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Rec. Commission approved these minutes on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grethel Guzman-Ruck