

Recreation Commission
Wednesday, September 23, 2020
6:00pm

A meeting of the Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, Sept 23, 2020 at the Youth Center located on Pike Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. The following were in attendance

Debbie Cunningham, Vice Chair
Cory Puopolo
Noleen Tomasi
Katie Duryea, Youth Member

Brandy Figueroa
Dawn Jones

Absent: Tom Hoppey, Chairman, Mike Latini

A motion to approve the minutes and report from August was made by Brandy and seconded by Debbie. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

Public Comment: None

New Business

John is concerned about holding the Halloween Parade this year. The parade typically involves a mass gathering and John doesn't think that the Recreation Department should host anything that promotes congregating. John suggested having a dance party at Riverside Park.

Participants can come dressed in costume and enjoy music and games from socially distant circles placed throughout the park. John feels that it is important to still be able to offer something to the community because so much has been cancelled. Noleen suggested having a photo station. The event will be held on October 24th at 3:00pm and the rain date will be the following day. A motion to approve the Dance Party was made by Noleen and seconded by Cory. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

Paving at Elks Brox Park and at the Reservoir entrance to the trails is now complete thanks to a grant. John would like to install crosswalks and speed limit signs along the roads and Skyline Drive.

A film crew will be using Elks Brox Park to film a portion of their movie over three nights mid-September. Lincoln will be filming a car commercial at Pt. Peter and is gifting a donation to the Recreation Department as a thank you for helping to find the location.

Butch and Kate Lemon made a donation as a thank you for offering the summer concerts and other events throughout the city. Thank you letters have already been sent.

The Dance Center has requested the use of the stage at Riverside Park to hold a dance recital on 10/24 at 10am. A motion to approve the use of the facility was made by Dawn and seconded by Brandy. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

Little Chefs at PJ Rec Fall Edition will be held for 5 weeks beginning on 10/24 at the Youth Center. Classes will be 10am-12pm and the cost is \$50. The class is offered to children ages 10-13 and will have socially distant requirements so the class size is limited to 8. Registration will be at the Youth Center on 10/5, 10/7, and 10/14 5pm-7pm. A motion to hire Kathy Potter as the instructor was made by Dawn and seconded by Brandy. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

John will be offering a Winter Busy Body program to kids grades K-3. The Instructor is TBD.

The Outdoor Club will be sponsoring a trial run triathlon on 10/3. It is a small event of 30 maximum participants. If it goes well then the event will be brought back. It involves kayaking, rappelling, and biking. John will email the commission the start time. Silver Canoe is donating the kayaks and transportation.

The 2nd Annual Stone Challenge will be held 11/7 at Elks Brox Park. There will be an advanced course in addition to the original course. There is a 9am start time. Dawn asked if volunteers will be needed. Yes. Honor Society has been contacted.

Tyrone Morgan, a local resident, contacted John about installing a Disc Golf course in Port. John has concerns about the location and the cost but suggested that they meet to discuss ideas. He will keep everyone updated.

The Youth Center schedule is adjusted weekly due to the school cohort schedules and numbers of kids attending. John is allowing anyone to attend the Center while we are in Phase 2. If we have more than the allowed maximum wanting to attend during Phase 3 he will adjust accordingly. John is going to reach out to the superintendent to see how we can let families know that the Center is open after school.

John passed out photos of the garbage that has been left at Church Street on a regular basis. It was suggested that he post temporary signs that the lights will be left off until the park stays clean. The Commission agreed with this idea.

The recent proposal for a new rec center was voted down by the common council. The proposal was to give permission to seek funding opportunities. With the proposal being voted down funding can't be secured. Various reasons were discussed. John would like to appeal for a new vote. John would like to send a letter- on behalf of the Recreation Commission to request a new vote and to express the Commissions' displeasure. Noleen would like to talk to residents and to have a petition signed to seek a revote. The Commission would like to meet with Chandler, the rec. liaison to discuss the vote. John will email and ask her for a meeting. A

motion to approve the drafting of a letter to the common council was made by Noleen and seconded by Debbie. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

The City voted not to exceed going over the 2% tax cap. As a result there could be major cuts in services and employees of the city. John has submitted the 2021 proposed rec budget. John has already cut in many areas but did request 3 beach attendant positions because the beach created revenue this summer and the positions are warranted. He intends to raise the parking fee at the beach to \$10.

Fall Cleanup will be held at Farnum Park on 11/4 at 10am.

John is recommending Ivan Figueroa as a new Youth Member to replace Liam Tomasi. A motion to approve the appointment was made by Debbie and seconded by Cory. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

Old Business

Fireworks went well. 7/2/21 is the next display.

Youth Center Update: Jill will be away till Mid-October

Youth Report: None

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 was made by Noleen and seconded by Cory. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
6:00pm