

Recreation Advisory Committee

LOCATION OF MEETING: Sharon Community Center

DATE & TIME: April 23, 2015

Recreation Advisory Committee

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Attendees: Gary Bluestein- Chairman, Steve Lesco -Vice Chairman, Cheryl Whiting, Steven Ferrara, Mitch Blaustein, Amanda Levasseur - Recreation Director, Christine Kasparian - Assist. Recreation Director

Meeting called to order 7:02 p.m.

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes from the April 2, 2015.

Motion: Steve L.

Second: Mitch

Unanimous Vote

Recreation Update: Amanda and Christine have been interviewing for a Waterfront Director. They plan on hiring a Waterfront Director by the beginning of May.

Pre-Summer parking passes are now live. This week, more than 7 cars were parked in the lot. Starting May 1st, passes will be the regular rate. If the lot could open on April 1st, it would have been more successful. Unfortunately, the snow prevented Memorial Park Beach from opening on April 1st. For next year, Steve F. suggested that the Student Parking Pass could be a different color. Additionally, for next year, it is suggested that we revisit our pass structure, as we are offering 15 different passes at this.

Amanda spoke with Steve Savrann, president of Friends of the Ames Street Playground, regarding a Capital Project for a future year.

Presentation by Sharon Pop Warner - Matt Baker

Pop Warner is currently facilitation a transition, as many new, younger parents are coming in. They currently have two concerns regarding this year's program: parental involvement and participant registration. They have already had to combine teams due to lack of coaches specifically in the cheer section of Pop Warner. Numbers are trending on a national level. However, it is

not being seen on a local level. Matt has commiserated with other towns for solutions and reasons for the decrease in participation. The main concern is specialization. Nowadays, an athlete can concentrate on one sport all year round. Additionally, when the parents are involved, you have a better opportunity to recruit. At this time, there is not as much parental involvement. Pop Warner works with Coach Moris at Sharon High School on collaborating programs to assist with skills, recruitment, etc. The younger ages have had the biggest dip in participation. The "Mites" team has decreased from 30 kids in 2011 to 6 kids in 2015. Financial constraints have been affected by lack of fundraising and increasing time commitment. Two years ago, Sharon Pop Warner donated \$10,000 for the Cheerleading program to head to the national competition. In the past two years, Pop Warner has not been granted the donation. The only expenses on the Football side of Pop Warner are helmet certification and referees. However, on the Cheer side of Pop Warner expenses include gym time in addition to equipment, instruction, etc. Pop Warner is thinking about cutting costs by reducing apparel offering and minimizing the end-of-year banquet. In years past, Hockomock leagues have pulled out of merged with surround towns. Sharon is not there yet, but this year has been the most challenging!

Ecotourism Committee Update - The Recreation Advisory Committee is the last committee to appoint a member. Meetings will take place over the next couple of months dependent on everyone's availability. Cheryl has volunteered to attend nighttime meetings. Mitch has volunteered to attend as an alternate.

Master Plan Update - Mitch has been appointed by Gary as the representative from the Rec Advisory committee for the Open Space Master plan.

Old Business - Dog Park and Community Gardens operate independent from the Recreation Department. Gary is suggesting that we have both of these groups in to a Rec Advisory Committee Meeting. Gary has volunteered to be the point person for both the Dog Park and the Community Gardens.
Next Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2015.

Motion to adjourn: Steve L.

Second: Steve F.

Unanimous vote

Meeting adjourned at 8:48PM

Respectfully Submitted

Christine Kasparian, Assistant Recreation Director