

Recreation Meeting Minutes from 3/17/2022

Attendees: Rebecca Acheson, Mark Dahn, Bill Faxon, Christine Geertsma, Carolyn George, Sean McDonnell, Debbie Varnerin

Absent: Ed Gallitelli

Meeting called to order at 6:37pm

- **Congratulations**
 - Congratulations to Kelcie Sweetwood – longtime rec employee over 10 years - on the birth of her baby girl, Juliette.
 - \$20 donation per member to be sent toward a group gift – send Debbie via Venmo
- **Adoption of Rec Minutes from 2/17/2022 meeting**
 - Motion -Bill
 - Second – Chris
- **Adoption of February 2022 Recreation Financials**
 - Motion – Bill
 - Second –Mark
 - Next few weeks a sub-committee will review structure and tracking for improvements – Deb will lead
 - Do not have recreation staff salaries – strictly instructor lead payroll
- **Tom Barton Scholarship**
 - Thank you to Rebecca & Mark for championing the sub-committee for applicant review
 - \$20K raised so far toward the scholarship
 - Amazing participation for first launch and had 17 applicants. Narrowed down to five finalists to discuss at next meeting
 - Based on applications we need to drive even more specificity on requirements and criteria. Many applicants talked about sports they played vs recreation participation
- **Summer Concert Series**
 - Sponsorship by Connell & FISERV, Summit Health, Atlantic Healthcare our top sponsors have helped us to raise what we raised last year.
 - Business Civic no longer participating as a sponsor so new
 - Adding more kid friendly activities including face painting, bounce house, et
 - Reaching out to local restaurants for their participation
 - Set up new website for concert line up. All bands scheduled (5) and top sponsors engaged
 - First concert June 27 – the Nerds
- **Fields, Parks & Grounds Update**
 - **Softball/baseball**
 - Been working with J. Jolley and M. Garcia to ensure sufficient field availability. Annie Young field has been turned and looks good. Mountain Park Field being transformed to a softball field. Woodruff installing a removable pitching rubber. Trying to get more softball practices on turf field. Sansone (Upper Horseshoe) pitching mound fixed.
 - DPW adding infield mix to all fields. Proposed grass field opening date April 1 weather permitting – need to notify baseball teams. Bill to notify PAL / Garcia. Upper Deck and Untamed reached out for field scheduling.
 - Sean and Mark thank you for managing field scheduling
 - **Soccer**
 - Looking to reschedule games over spring break
 - Public discussion opened to Sean Kelly and Brendan Quinn – representing men’s soccer. They shared that they received communication last month that they were being moved off the field after 14 years. Have always paid and have always acquiesced when needed. Voicing feedback that they feel they have

been pushed out with lack of transparency and communication. Asked what do they need to do to be included in the decision process moving forward.

- Deb apologized – ordinance that we cannot keep lights on beyond 10pm and committed to improve on communication moving forward. Our intown programs have grown substantially and we are having difficulty accommodating all the field requests.
- Sean asked for a single point of contact to work with moving forward. Communication goes through the soccer club. Reached out to county to see if we could move team to baseball field. County only allowing baseball and softball on that field. County investigating other fields for potential use.

- **Capital Budget Update for Memorial Park Pavilion**

- Proposed installation date,
- Carolyn shared picture, town on board, footings poured after ripping up current slab. Discussion of current slab. Crack in slab might be factor in installation of pavilion. Grant money to do this. 70,000 capitals might be used for this if gets approved. Electrical wiring potential for pavilion. Change the color of structure as neighbor painted their own. Hoping for early June for install.

- **Spring Programming Update**

All things moving ahead. Brianna helping with school programs.

- **Meeting at Lower Columbia – Future Plans**

- Angie D, Mike D, Jeanne K, Carolyn G, Debbie V and Ed G in attendance

- Notes: \$150,00 coming from Pfizer to use funds. Tax maps reviewed for property to move ahead with plans. Turf, paths, basketball courts all topics. More research requested as Pfizer money might not be able to be used by the BOE. Legal issues regarding property and propriety of grant. Long term plan: turf and lights. Sean asked if put money in bank and do turf later. Sean noted that for turf elevation 5-6 feet for the field. Proper drainage requires an increase in elevation. Move front bball court, back bball field is owned by BOE. Partner with BOE, acquire BOE land and do turf. Discussion led to basketball courts as a better starting place. Quote for fencing being sent to BOE, Carolyn to do this.

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- **Union County Grant Project – submission in August**

- Looking for ideas, would like to submit plan/ideas at next Rec Meeting on 4/21.

- **Miscellaneous**

Public Discussion: Sean Kelly and Brendan Quinn- moving forward open line of communication for men's soccer league, 2 games a week will be good. Tom Barton had open communication. Youth programs are growing- spring full. Rec Commission thought it was pick up soccer- make teams on the day-its not a league- Sean McDonnell provided update and information. Option to play at GL if available. Lower Colombia as well and rec will look at the status of the fields, Lights are there. Deb offered trying lower Colombia. Request for open communication repeated. Rec to get baseball schedule. Men's league doesn't need lines.