

# Recreation & Parks

## November 12, 2024, 6:00 PM

### Community Center

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Attendance: Matt Martin, Linda Rice-Collins, Karin Ernst, Shelly Bedrossian. Rossana Ferrante arrived at 7:01.

Meeting called to order at 6:00.

#### **Outdoor Racket Sports & Courts**

- Shelly, Karin, and Jaime are interested in feedback for changes that make sense for the town, department, and community.
- Hours (Vets, Seaside)
  - Marsha Burke: When booking a court for doubles for tennis, two people have to book to get an hour and a half, which wastes half an hour. It would be helpful if one person could book the session.
    - Currently hampered by software but will try to change it for April.
  - Tony Mongiello: Representing Marblehead Pickleball: People are looking for times at Vets that start at 9 rather than 10, given that it's getting darker earlier.
- Lights
  - Can people turn on the lights themselves?
    - No, but we may explore options in the future.
  - Kate Dinsmore: When the lights are on a timer, do they go on at dusk?
    - Discussion about the lights schedule - it was set up with 4 subsets that are seasonal. There was some feedback that the lights seem a little dim but it may just be that they take time to fully power on.
  - Mark Bergeron: What time are the lights supposed to stay on until at Seaside?
    - Sept-Oct: off at 9:05. Nov-Dec off at 8:05. Jan-March off at 7:05.
    - Discussion about lights at the high school - that is a question for the School Committee.
- Programming
  - We have recently added programming - Tina Fox is teaching classes.
  - Tony: Would it be possible for other people to play while Tina is running clinics indoors?
  - Question: What is the process for forming a league?
    - Reach out to Recreation. It needs to be a non-profit, requires insurance, league rules, a schedule, and a leader. Discussion about league requirements.
  - Tony: Provided a schedule for Marblehead Pickleball. There will be a one-time signup and it will end earlier.
  - Ken Klaiman: Would moving the pickleball league to Seaside alleviate some of the friction with neighbors?
    - Discussion: The league wanted to use the Vets' courts due to the spacing of the courts. Neighbors' feedback is that pickleball.org members are adhering to the rules and that the booking of the court helped close the court at the end of the day.

- Tony: We are considering fundraisers for next year in April and September.
  - Karin: suggested providing more leeway time to complete the permit request process.
- Clarification: Vets is open until dusk on Thursdays in the summer? Is it possible to move the dusk day to the night of the league so we don't have to start as early?
- Maintenance
  - Matt noted that we need to fill in the entryway when you walk into court 1 from behind the daycare.
  - Luann Gable: Can we get signs at Seaside that say no rollerblading, no dogs? Signs are frequently removed.
    - We will continue to try to address it and replace the signs.
  - Suzanne Quigley: would like a trash can in the courts or a sign that says carry-in, carry-out.
  - Tension on the tennis nets needs to be checked.
  - Tony: The signs on Seaside courts E and F are basically pieces of tape. Could we get normal signs for E and F?
  - Tony: Are windscreens an option, on A and B, the side closest to the baseball diamond?
    - Discussion about windscreens - are they effective? More for visual assistance.
- Scheduling
  - Discussion about how to let people know not to use the courts during matches. Could the schedule be posted at the courts? The time is blocked from reservations online, but people who arrive in person do not know.
  - Discussion around being able to schedule on the half hour, rather than the hour. Currently limited by software, but looking into solutions.
  - Neighbor comment: the adjustment has been very positive. Looking for suggestions on how to deal with people who do not abide by closing times.
    - Shelly: We are thinking about looking into locking the courts on a timer.
- Marblehead Residence
  - Discussion: Allow Marblehead residents to make reservations, but non-residents can still come to play.
    - Could we allow it but add a fee?
    - Would it be possible to give Marblehead residents an earlier chance to make a reservation?
    - Could we do a seasonal pass instead of reservation-by-reservation?
- Open Play
  - Lisa Neville: can't engage with open play currently due to the hours. Opening it up at Seaside would help, even just a few days.
  - Discussion about levels of play and keeping open play truly open without having to hire staff to monitor. What is the reason Seaside does not have open play? We ran it as a trial over the summer to see how it went.
  - Question for tennis: the court on the far left at Vets is the least-used court in the system - would anyone have an issue with it being dual-lined?

## **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Linda noted that under “Park Properties Update - Memorial benches,” she had said that when people pay for the bench, they also pay for an endowment.
- Motion to approve the previous minutes with that change - all in favor. Matt Martin did not vote because he was not in attendance for the previous meeting.

### **Tom McGovern: Seaside Basketball Court**

- Discussed budgeting a few weeks ago with Pete. Talked about the town installing backboards and rims from one company and having a second company do the court, for approximately 25 thousand dollars. Ideally it would be finished in the spring so kids could use it.
- Discussed funding: Marblehead Youth Basketball, Friends of Marblehead Basketball, potential boosters. At the last meeting we talked about possibly naming the court or doing something with Paul Mitchell to recognize his work.
  - Discussion about the precedent of naming things for people still living. Linda mentioned Glabicky Field was named after Bob Glabicky while he was still alive. Discussion of developing criteria for officially dedicating places.
  - Discussion about where to place a dedication. The backboard or the benches? Sign on the telephone pole or in the ground?
- Motion to call Seaside Basketball Court “Mitch’s Court” moving forward. Motion seconded. All in favor.
- Tom will stay in touch with Pete to solidify the contractors.
- Discussion of design of logos, signs. Jaime suggested taking pictures of examples.
- Matt suggested using 50 as a target for fundraising.

### **Recreation Update - Jaime**

- The department is currently running No-School Days programs at Clifton Lutheran Church and Hobbs from 8:45-2:30. Today they took 30 participants - the numbers are limited by staffing. Registration is day-to-day, it opens one day prior. Participants who are currently in the program get a 2 hour window to register for the next day. Afternoon programs are not as affected because they are younger.
- Fall 2 season is extremely short due to school days and holidays.
- The ski trip registration opened and closed.
- A draft of the Rec and Park manual for independent contractors is available.
  - Discussion about who this would apply to - every person who does not get a paycheck from Rec & Park. Anyone who invoices and doesn’t fill out a timesheet. This would make cancellation and behavior policies and expectations clear and consistent. Both parties would be accountable and it would be in writing.

Next meeting date: November 26th, December 10th, at 6 PM.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:45.**

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Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn