

Recreation & Parks
February 27, 2024
6pm @ Community Center

Attendance: Commissioners Matt Martin - Chair, Linda Rice Collins, Rosanna Ferrante, Shelly Bedrossian, Karin Ernst
Also attending: Bonnie Grenier from the League of Women Voters

Meeting called to order at 6:00p.

Meeting minutes for 01/09/2024 – Linda Rice Collins clarified that she worked with Peter James on both Stramski's and the dog park updates in the 01/09/24 meeting minutes. Karin Ernst requested the name of the person taking minutes to be added to the end of the document for each meeting. Motion to approve. All in favor.

Appearances:

- Arts Festival, Crocker Park (Brian Wheeler)
 - No changes from past years
 - Already contacted Marblehead police to request two officers per night for detail with staggered shifts of 6p-10p and 6:30p-10:30p
 - Load in Tues 07/02/24, then start on 07/04/24 with shows at 12p, 2p, 6p and 8p showtimes on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
 - Planning to complete break down by around 3p on Sunday 07/07/24
 - Hoping to have Boy Scouts involved this year
 - Tyson Miller will be new lighting director; used to intern with them
 - One band left to book
 - Brian highlighted new sound
 - Went to school for sound after complaints two years ago to learn how to control it better; reduced the effects of the sound on neighbors
 - Peter commented they have not had complaints in the past couple of years and commended Brian on their work
 - New secretary – Ashley Hannaway
 - Jaime Bloch requested to speak with Ashley to go over permit requirements for festival days
 - Karin made a motion to approve the days and times on flyer.
 - Unanimously approved
- Dog Park – Stephen and Linda
 - Linda met with Ted Moore regarding gaining access to property for access road to dog park
 - Linda reports meeting went extremely well – Ted gave permission
 - Will end up with more parking at dog park
 - They discussed specifications for size, angles, gate locations, etc.
 - Gave permission to take down trees on his property if necessary for access
 - Linda suggested group site visit on March 5, 2024
 - Rosanna asked Stephen about the depth of the stone dust
 - Peter will ask Becky Curran about this
 - Stephen noted organic lock stabilizer is used to hold stone dust together
 - Around 13,000 square feet total
 - Stephen noted they will privately fundraise for surfacing

Topics:

- Beach Discussion
 - Matt Martin spoke with Town Administrator Thatcher Kezer – Commission can raise rates for beaches without going to Town Meeting for approval from town
 - Debated dollar amount vs percentage to determine the portion the Commission keeps
 - Currently it is dollar amount

- If possible to make the change, Matt prefers percentage
- Shelly has numbers to bring to Finance Committee
 - Did an analysis of all the beaches in eastern Massachusetts for parking prices, amenities, stores, etc.
- Karin would like to circle back after meeting on Thursday to discuss
 - Will bring it back to the Commission after that meeting

Matt interjected before the next agenda item to commend new bench @ Green St field, but believes another is needed as one cannot fit a whole team.

Park Updates – Peter James

- Would like to purchase new picnic tables and benches for pavilion, all plastic
 - Cost = around \$13,000 total
 - Some handicap accessible
 - Lighter in weight; will be removed when storms expected
 - Motion to approve; unanimously approved
- Park employees are doing more cleanups with nicer weather
- John DiCicco has been working on equipment
- Trash 3x per week
- Still open position, search for candidates is ongoing
- Peter and Jaime met with Thatcher and Aleesha about the budget
 - Money for clerk & custodial services cut along with other line items
 - Can request again next year
 - About \$58,000 cut from budget
- Vine St
 - Need to get items up on Municibid
 - Two boats?
 - Peter will talk to Jon Fobert about this
- Karin asked if we have all mowers needed for summer - Peter confirmed yes
- Tree at Seaside – on Jon Fobert’s radar
 - He may come to Rec & Park Commission meeting for ideas on where to plant trees

Recreation Updates – Jaime Bloch

- New session started February 26 through April break
- Getting ready for summer in terms of staffing
 - Large percentage returning, not a lot of hiring to do except sailing staff – need more
- Jaime is trying to secure bussing from the schools to get students from Village to Gatchell’s Mon – Fri most weeks
 - Playground program
 - Needs final response from schools but has not been able to get answers yet
 - Also needs answers in regards to MOU
- New school calendar has been released for 2024-25, possible program changes next year
- Sweetheart Dance is coming up
- Planning this year’s Summer Dig
- Up & Up also coming up

Correspondence

- Matt read email from Kathleen Leonardson to Peter
- Discussed Corinthian Yacht Club request regarding parking at Riverhead Beach for shuttle service on August 10, 2024
 - Discussed various options for cost
 - Peter suggested \$25 per car
 - Matt - \$1200 flat fee
 - Discussed difficulty of keeping track of number of cars
 - Motion to approve \$1,250 flat fee, seconded by Rosanna
 - Approved
- 03/31/24 Sue MacNamara, Grace Community Church – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Devereux Beach (see attached permit summary report)
 - Motion to approve, all in favor
- 05/11/24 Maxwell Howe - Wedding ceremony at Chandler Hovey Park (see attached permit summary report)
 - Motion to approve, all in favor pending insurance and fees
- 05/21/24 Shari Pressman – League of Women Voters Candidates Night Forum (see attached permit summary report)
 - Location in question
 - Postponed until clarification of location

Next Meeting – March 12, 2024 @ 6p

Meeting adjourned @ 7:28p

Minutes taken by: Amanda Viecegli