

Recreation & Parks
March 12, 2024
6pm @ Community Center

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00p.

Meeting minutes for 02/27/2024 –Motion to approve. All in favor.

Appearances:

- Carnival Request – Marblehead High School Student Council (Colette Rodriguez, Olivia Goldwater, Sam Hegan)
 - No changes from past years
 - May 2nd – 5th, 2024
 - 6-10pm Thursday & Friday, 1-10pm Saturday, and 1-6pm Sunday
 - Requesting week before opening to clean and set up
 - Commission noted they need to obtain liability insurance
 - Will be going to Select Board for police detail approval, etc
 - Motion made to approve; all in favor.
- John Fobert – Tree Warden
 - No control off trees in Park & Rec
 - New sidewalk infrastructure issue is limiting amount of space he can plant trees in
 - Noticed spot at Gatchell's Pit would be good spot to add trees
 - No canopy currently
 - Site visit?
 - Jaime wants Rec directors to join for visit
 - Possible spots already marked
 - Between Raimo Zon and courts
 - Seaside?
 - \$10K - 12K to buy trees
 - Article from 2023 Town Meeting re: town trees on private property
 - Nothing done yet as John did not like wording in the article
 - Needs to go back to town meeting to fix language
 - Memorial Tree for Tom Hammond
 - Matt mentioned was approved years ago but never done
 - Discussed possible tree types to choose from
 - Requested that any other ideas for places to plant trees be sent to him via email

Topics:

- Dog Park Discussion – Stephen and Linda
 - Matt not comfortable moving forward without written clarification from owner of property Ted Moore
 - Dimensions of land – need survey done
 - Clarification of what Ted agreed can and cannot be done
 - Codification of deed needed
 - Utility gate project?
 - To get into area for park

- Stephen noted they need to show donors that the work is getting done with the money they raised via fundraising, Matt agreed as money was raised
 - Need to resurface
- Matt expressed he would like to invite Ted Moore to a meeting to get the clarification before doing anything else
 - Linda noted getting it in writing is better as he may not come to meeting – not always in town
 - Shelly suggest Linda write up and submit to rest of Commission for approval, then to Ted to sign
 - Karin expressed belief that fixing the dog park and the utility gate are things they can do and have control over currently
- Dog park must be ADA accessible, so access road is needed for it to be accessible and survive
 - Karin asked if there is any way to instead move the park to somewhere that is ADA compliant and where parking is already accessible
 - Linda noted this was worked on for five years
 - December 6, 2006: was reported that all property in Marblehead was researched and this site is the only spot with enough acreage for the park
- Shelly – next steps are to write letter, present to Ted, renegotiate if necessary or continue if he agrees
- Matt – gave green light for utility gate to continue
- Beach Discussion: Operations and Fees– Shelly and Karin
 - Completed analysis of eastern MA beaches
 - Vote #1: New beach rates for 2024
 - Resident, non-sticker: \$15 weekday; \$20 Fri, Sat, Sun, and holidays
 - Non-residents: \$25 weekday; \$30 Fri, Sat, Sun, and holidays
 - For this year only: \$23/\$7 split with town per agreement with FinCom and Finance Director Aleesha Benjamin; warrant article will be drafted for next year
 - The above anticipated additional revenues helped lead to hiring of a cleaning company to maintain the Jacobi Center as of 07/01/2024: \$30,000 allotted for FY 2025
 - \$15,000 will be paid by Building Department (general fund), \$7500 paid by Rec and Park (Revolving Fund), and \$7,500 will be paid by the Council on Aging
 - This is only in place for this upcoming year (FY 2025)
 - The \$30,000 will be adopted as a permanent general fund budget item starting next year (FY 2026)
 - **Vote #1: Motion made and seconded, then unanimously approved**
 - Vote #2: Introduce Square POS
 - Accepts credit cards; can record cash sales
 - Cash still accepted for year one if absolutely needed; goal to move away from cash
 - Cost of system = 2.6% plus 10 cents per transaction
 - Flat 3% processing fee passed to beach pass purchases
 - Can help determine if staffing is adequate or needs adjusting for 2025 season and beyond
 - Peter & Jaime will determine how many devices/mobile registers
 - Jaime researching mobile data options
 - **Vote #2: Motion made and seconded, then unanimously approved**
 - Extension of beach season and hours
 - Beaches would open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays starting Memorial Day weekend
 - Open May 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, June 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9
 - Hours extended: 7a-5p Fri, Sat, Sun; 8a-5p Mon-Thurs
 - **Vote not needed – operational**

- Stramski porta potty expense
 - Memorial Day – Labor Day
 - **Vote not needed – operational**
- MACS League – porta potty option?
 - Noted that fields are left a mess
 - Matt would like to know when this happens
- Vote #3: Wedding Permits
 - Chandler Hovey, Castle Rock, Crocker Park
 - Current rates: Non-resident = \$250, resident = \$125
 - Desired rates: Non-resident = \$400, resident = \$175
 - Match Abbot Hall and Fort Sewall?
 - Currently \$250 for both
 - Proof of residency = insurance holder needs to be a resident (Karin)
 - Jaime would like commissioners to think about the time frame on payments for wedding permits, etc
 - How long do they have to pay from date of approval?
 - She will put something together about this for a future meeting
 - **Vote #3: Motion made and seconded, unanimously approved**
- Vote #4: Catered picnic fees
 - Discussion about raising fees to \$100 for 1-12 guests for Tier 1 locations and \$60 for Tier 2 locations
 - Tier 1: Chandler Hovey, Crocker Park, Castle Rock
 - Tier 2: Devereux, Bud Orne, Stramsky's, Gerry, Reynolds
 - **Vote #4: Motion made and seconded, unanimously approved**
- Matt noted after the motions he would like uniform fees with Fort Sewall and Abbot Hall

Other - Matt

- Matt was approached by two people about Seaside Fitness Trail – needs cleanup
 - Peter will have John DiCicco do a walkthrough
- Fund the Field – Muffy and Lisa Spinelli approached Matt
 - Anticipating bids come in close to what they were; they are close to goal but are about \$100,000 short
 - He suggested they hold a pickleball tournament in April to raise more money
 - Offered to help get t-shirts, etc, but they would need to do the legwork for tournament
 - Vets – Jaime noted they need to request a special permit for Park & Rec and the schools as it is school property

Park Updates – Peter James

- Municibid - items should be up this week
- Met with members of the Neck Association at Castle Rock – they want to help make improvements
 - Peter relayed to the association that we have \$3,500 per year for passive park improvements, can use it there this year but whatever the town does has to be done before end of fiscal year in June
 - Reported the wall is a mess
 - Neck Association and the town wrote letters to the owners about it
 - The town engineer referred Peter to the Building Department as it is a building issue. He was told the town has no fines so the owners will likely ignore letters.

- Need to redo whole pathway down to the rock; Peter will have more information next meeting
- Park employees have been helping at Stramski's – short on students, carpentry class not back until fall
 - Karin noted she would like a total of how much money has been spent on Stramski's since the last site visit – Peter reported just a few small bills and a second payment for the lift for \$19,000. One more \$4,000 payment will go out for the lift after it is installed.
- Couple weeks before tarps come off fields as long as weather keeps trending up
- John DiCicco retiring at end of summer
- Lockers at Stramski's?
 - Matt – no interest last few summers. If no traction on lockers, a decision needs to be made
 - Linda noted important to kayakers. Jaime reported information about them will go out when kayak permits open on 03/13/24

Recreation Updates – Jaime Bloch

- Kayak permits go on sale at 11am on 03/13/2024
- Jaime meeting with school department on Thursday 03/14/2024 about buses and MOU for April
- Very few new hires for summer, lots of returning staff
 - Exception is Sailing – still need more staff but hard to find
- Starting to load fall programming online now that school schedule is out for 2024-2025 year
- Up, Up, and Away on 03/13/2024

Correspondence

- Farm Direct Coop Request
 - Matt decided to move this discussion to the agenda for next meeting
 - Peter will find out how much they paid the schools
 - Jaime suggested requesting a special permit request
- 04/13/24 Ashley Davis – Request to use Crocker Park as student film set (see attached permit summary report)
 - Discussed no cost due to it being a student request
 - Marblehead high school students or college students?
 - Shelly did not agree, thinks it should not be free
 - Matt suggested either waiving it or charging \$100 consistently for this type of request
 - Motion made to approve and waive fee
 - Matt, Linda, and Karin voted to approve and waive fee
 - Shelly opposed due to the inconsistency of fees/waivers - there is currently no set policy regarding fee waivers
 - Motion approved due to 3-1 majority vote

Public Comment

- Bonnie from The League of Women Voters highlighted that NewEngland.com voted Marblehead the Best Coastal Town in New England.
 - Crocker Park and pickleball mentioned

Next Meeting – March 19, 2024 @ 6p

Meeting adjourned @ 8:18p

Minutes taken by: Amanda Viecegli