

Recreation & Parks
April 29, 2024
7pm @ Community Center

Attendance: Commissioners Matt Martin - Chair, Linda Rice Collins, Rosanna Ferrante, Shelly Bedrossian, Karin Ernst

Meeting called to order at 7p.

Motion to approve minutes from 04/16/24 meeting: Three minor changes noted. All in favor to approve with the changes, unanimously approved.

Topics:

- Farm Direct Co-op Appearance – Tamara Sullivan and Julie Pottier Brown, co-directors of Farm Direct
 - For-profit food hub/multi-farm cooperative
 - Want to add a day to accommodate more people - they are maxed out on Tues and Thurs; there is more demand as wait list is currently around 600
 - Truck arrives at noon, open at 3pm, close at 7pm
 - All food comes to Marblehead, truck split done by 2pm (trucks to Salem and Melrose leave)
 - They thought the town was going to help move shed to Coffin as they do not have equipment to do so
 - Ran out of time last year
 - Around \$18,000 to move
 - It was suggested they ask Chris Kennedy and Hooper Goodwin for help moving shed
 - Julie wrote Peter last year, did not come in front of Commission
 - Ran co-op out of Stramski's last year without permission from Rec & Park or any kind of discussion about nominal fees
 - Karin also mentioned pallets have been there for years
 - Shelly explained how the Commission came up with the requested \$3,000 fee for the upcoming season
 - Tamara and Julie noted they were not expecting fee, did not budget for it; they thought they would be gone from Stramski's by now
 - Possible fees have been discussed in the past but were never required to pay rent
 - They are requesting to stay one more year at Stramski's
 - Matt made a motion to allow them to stay one more year for a fee of \$2,500
 - **This must be revisited at the beginning of next year** – they need action plan for the year or moving locations
 - Motion seconded, unanimously approved
 - Karin requested they move the pallets and everything outside the building at the end of the season; Shelly asked for earlier notice next year – Jan or Feb
- Revolving Fund - Linda
 - Linda spoke with Thatcher Kezer about revolving fund due to questions she has been getting
 - She is requesting more information about the fund to be able to answer questions whenever she is approached:
 - How much taken in for each program, how much is spent for each program, supplies, salaries, etc.
 - Jaime has all this information
 - For transparency – need to explain how revolving works
 - Jaime explained line items do not always match up so it is not as clean as it could be, but she can organize it all for reports; would be happy to do so for regular meetings/reports
 - Quarterly or monthly reports?
 - Shelly noted that going forward, this should be added to operations manual

- Jaime will have numbers for next meeting
- Stramski's
 - Update on lift
 - April 15th – Verizon never showed up for phone
 - April 16th – phone company showed up but almost left once they saw what was involved
 - There had been four work orders where they came and left
 - April 17th – installed lift
 - Have punch list to do; Linda wants to talk to Peter James when he returns to work to ask if staff can do it (like caulking around lift, etc.)
 - Linda will send list to Jaime
 - Annual inspections will cost \$300 - \$500 per year
 - Plumbing teacher needs to redo pipe in basement
 - Peter Rice is working on list item by item
 - Karin would like to make a motion to remove Linda Rice Collins as project manager of Stramski's project
 - She does not feel comfortable with information on index cards
 - Since January, there have been two site visits at 1-1.5 hours each; she has asked what the cost will be moving forward and what needs to be done, as has the Commission
 - Printed out and brought all minutes, etc regarding the project just since January of this year
 - Almost a ten year project,
 - Motion seconded by Rosanna
 - Linda noted she felt blindsided by this motion
 - She has been working with project manager and was supposed to deliver report on June 15th
 - She noted she has been working on it right along, but it takes time to go out and get proposals and bids from different companies
 - Said she has not spent money that has not been approved by the Commission
 - Shelly read through all the minutes from 2014 regarding the project
 - Does not think it should all be on one person, not fair to blame one person as decisions were made along the way by the Commission
 - She created document containing all minutes regarding Stramski's project in sequential order – how it got to this point, what has been voted on and not voted on in public record, how much has been spent and on what (see attached)
 - She read aloud a detailed memorandum she wrote up after completing analysis - see attached
 - Rosanna – agrees that it is not a one-person issue; but thinks seven years is too long for the same one person to be in charge of a project
 - Wants to address how long a Commissioner can lead a project for in operations manual
 - Project is still inconclusive; feels it needs to be disclosed as a Commissioner and as a Commission. She does not feel there has been full disclosure on all details
 - After speaking to Thatcher about the project, she has concerns about liability and compliance with insurance, and the appearance of a potential conflict of interest as Linda has been leading project for seven years and so has her brother, Peter Rice
 - Linda – noted she has not been solo on the project as it was agreed (per minutes she can provide) that she would do it alongside the chair of the Commission
 - Decisions were always Chip and Linda, then brought to agenda and board
 - Noted she has not heard from Matt but has been asking
 - The board asked her brother Peter Rice to do it, not Linda
 - Peter has been working on it for free for seven years

- She would like to table the discussion until the June 15th deadline she was given to present what she was asked for
- Matt – it is unethical and unfair to keep asking Peter Rice to do this for free
 - Asked Thatcher about the conflict of interest of a board member working with a family member
 - Was told the bathroom on the second floor was Linda's idea and decision
- Rosanna noted compensation can come in other forms than monetary; contractors cannot benefit in any other way
- Linda asked if anyone would like to join her in leading the project
 - Others think it should be a Commission project rather than one or two people
 - Matt noted that Commission does policy and procedures, but the department does the day to day operations
- Motion vote: Rosanna, Karin, and Shelly in favor. Linda opposed. Matt abstained.
 - Motion carries 3 – 1.
- Karin would like the Commission to be more involved moving forward; also wants all estimates that have been worked on thus far
- Shelly made motion to see all the data collectively, all 106 invoices printed out and entered into public record by May 6th, and presented at next Commission meeting
 - Seconded by Karin
 - Vote: Matt, Karin, Shelly, Rosanna all in favor. Linda abstained.
 - Motion carries 4 – 0 with one abstaining.
- Linda made a statement that she believes the rest of the board met outside official meetings and that this was well-orchestrated
 - Rosanna and Matt stated for the record that never happened.
- Matt moved to adjourn the meeting at this point as it felt appropriate to do so.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Jaime noted there is correspondence to go through
 - Motion made to reopen meeting.

Correspondence

- Email from Thomas McGovern about naming Seaside courts after Paul Mitchell – see attached
 - Will get clarification about Shattuck, then will talk to them about this
- Email from Craig Garipey about pickleball – see attached
 - Expressed opinion on open pickleball and benefits to Marblehead
- 06/12/24, 06/13/24, and 06/14/24 Heather Greenberg – JCC Preschool Graduation at Devereux Beach (see attached permit summary report)
 - Motion to approve, all in favor. Approved pending insurance and \$30 fee per day.
- 06/10/24 Catherine Birtwell at Montessori – Field Day at Gatchell's Park (see attached permit summary report)
 - Motion to approve, all in favor. Approved pending insurance and \$30 fee.

Next Meeting – May 21, 2024 @ 6p

Meeting adjourned @ 8:34p

Minutes taken by: Amanda Viecelli