

Recreation & Parks

April 1, 2025, 6:30 PM

Community Center

Updated

Attendance: Matt Martin, Linda Rice-Collins, Karin Ernst, Rossana Ferrante. Shelly Bedrossian arrived at 6:42.

Meeting called to order at 6:31.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Move to approve minutes from 3/18/25. Seconded. All in favor minus Shelly, who is not yet present; the motion passes.

Town Structure Efficiency Project Discussion

- Looking to have elected boards be on the same page and save the town money. The initiative is intended to facilitate discussion among multiple departments to explore opportunities for efficiency.
- Rossana and Matt met with two selectmen briefly to share ideas; no decisions have been made at this point.
- Discussion about current interdepartmental collaboration.

Operations Manual Update

- Rossana proposed we deal with the manual the same way the charter has been doing (i.e. plan specific sections to review, at one meeting a month). It would help keep the discussion focused and save time. Linda suggested Rossana could facilitate.
- Rossana will resend the document to everyone for discussion at the next meeting.

Reynolds Infield Lights

- The infield lights at Green Street do not work. Everything from the meter down needs to be replaced. Pete should have a number for the repair cost by the next meeting.

Procurement Projects Update

- Hopkins Field: The school department will pay for the replacement of the scoreboard at Hopkins. They will take care of it before the fall.
- Seaside Park and Green Street: Jaime, Pete, and Shelly discussed with Thatcher how to handle the basketball courts. Because the cost will come between 10 and 50, it will need three bids, must be advertised on COMMBUYS and the Central Register for two weeks, and be posted in a few other places; it will not need a formal RFP process. Becky will be working on Green Street, which is an RFP. Thatcher said let's get the formal bid ready, then go before the select board.
- Hammond Nature Center: Jaime met with James Horgan, who believes repairs to the steps and railing could potentially be a scouts project. Linda will meet with James to see what they could do.

Park Updates (Pete)

- Pete has recommended an employee for full-time hire at step 4. Move to hire Mario Otto as a full time employee at step 4. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Seaside: The grandstand seating area is finished; the steps have been repainted and shored up underneath.
- Some restrooms have opened where athletics have started, such as Seaside; Gatchell's will open soon for Marblehead Youth Baseball. The rest will probably be re-opened in the beginning of May.
- Devereux Beach: Pete met with the town engineer and Amy McHugh to look at the handicap parking spots at the beach. They already have companies on contract for hot top and painting so it will not need to go out to bid. They suggested building a ramp to enter the restrooms rather than crushed stone or Linpac.
 - ADA grant: The town pays for it up front and the ADA will reimburse.
- Stramski: Rossana shared that rough plumbing will be complete this month. Carpentry and first floor interior rough will be complete mid-May. The fire alarm panel has not yet been received. Insulation will go in this summer.
- Vine Street: we will try to get the debris out by mid-May.
- Rossana and Karin went to the compensation committee; the Superintendent of Recreation position has been posted. Discussion about the application process.

Recreation Update (Jaime)

- The Sweetheart Dance will be on Friday night; it is full with a waiting list. There are 400 people registered.
- April's quick indoor session has started. May is booming. Setting training dates is in progress. There is a good amount of returning staff.
- Jaime would like to put in a job description for a recreational instructor (someone more specialized); the role would be similar to an independent contractor, but will get an hourly rate to teach a class and would be a part time Recreation & Parks employee. It would fall under the revolving fund.
- Jaime created a draft of an MOU between Recreation & Parks and the Council On Aging regarding the shared use of the Community Center.
- Jaime would like to set up a meeting at the end of the month to go over the school MOU.

Correspondence

- Stephen Walker, for the Move4Heather Marblehead Neck Challenge, requests the use of Riverhead and Devereux Beaches on August 3rd, 2025 from 6 AM to noon, in support of glioblastoma research. The Challenge is a 4 mile paddle and rowing race in a loop from Riverhead to Devereux.
 - Discussion: we would like to bring this to the Harbormaster for his approval. The water itself is outside of the department's scope.
 - We will table this until the Harbormaster weighs in.
- Dennis King requests the use of Seaside Park on November 9th from 11 AM to 4 PM with approximately 400 attendees, for a Make-A-Wish event. Move to approve. All in favor, the motion passes.

- Kate Dinsmore requests the use of the Veterans Middle School pickleball courts on September 13 from 8 AM to 6 PM for a tournament to fundraise for Marblehead Pickleball. Move to approve. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- William Park requests the use of Devereux Beach for the Miles For Mary 5K on October 18, 2025, from 8 AM to noon, in support of brain cancer research. Move to approve. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Daan Goedkoop, on behalf of the Eastern Yacht Club, requests permission to park mast-down trailered boats and empty trailers from September 18th through October 1st at either Riverhead Beach or Devereux.
 - Move to approve for \$250. Seconded. All in favor.
- Rachel Schaffner is looking to reserve the fenced-in tennis court area at Gatchell's Park for an adult dodgeball tournament on May 4th, from 4 to 6 PM.
 - Move to approve pending Marblehead Youth Baseball does not need that space, pending insurance, for \$55/hour. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Matt congratulated Pete on his upcoming retirement and thanked him and Jaime for their work, and expressed his appreciation for working with the commission. He announced that he will not be pulling his papers this year, and wants people to know that in case anyone is interested in running for the commission.

Next meeting will be April 15th at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn