

# Recreation & Parks

## January 8, 2025, 6:00 PM

### Community Center

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Attendance: Matt Martin, Linda Rice-Collins, Karin Ernst, Shelly Bedrossian. Rossana Ferrante joined at 6:41.

Meeting called to order at 6:02.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Linda noted that the motion at the end of the dog park discussion needed to be included. (This motion was not seconded or voted on.)

#### **Vine Street Update**

- Pete met with Brad and Greg. There is still a lot of junk on the site - some had been placed on MunicibiD. Spoke with Andrew about getting a metal bin.

#### **Contract Addendum Discussion**

- The addendum is recommended by the lawyer. Linda suggested adding Riverhead to the language.
- We will use DocuSign to complete the document.
- Motion to accept and move forward with the memorandum of understanding as well as the addendum to the contract for our current contractor. All present are in favor (Rossana Ferrante is absent).

#### **Leash Law Discussion**

- Linda recommended that on items that require several boards to move forward, we all meet in the same room so everyone has the same information.
- Shelly shared that the Pooch Pass is tabled because based on her discussions with surrounding towns, it will not generate the revenue needed to maintain the waste stations. Also, due to the dog park donations we do not want to ask for money twice.
- Tom, Shelly, and Betsy have met to discuss potential changes and clarifications to the bylaws.
  - **13-5 Running at large:** language clarified (“at large” to “off leash”, “appropriate length” to “12 feet”) and penalties increased from \$25 to \$100 for the first offense, \$50 to \$300 for the second incident, and \$500 for third and subsequent offenses. Discussion about what a reasonable length of leash is.
  - **13-9 Disposal of fecal matter:** D (Fines for violation): originally \$50 for each offense, now \$250 for each offense without warning.
  - **13-11 Seasonal prohibition of dogs from certain areas:** Andrew brought up the point that we need to discern between bathing beaches and non-bathing beaches. Clarified “on or off leash” and named the specific cemeteries in town. Clarified language regarding bathing beaches.
    - Discussion regarding whether Preston is a public or private beach.

- Karin suggested specifying “Stramski Beach” to differentiate from the playground area.
- Discussion about the current bylaws timeframe (May 1 to October 1); it does not sync with the current seasonal use of fields. Fields and courts are specified for clarity.
- Rossana joined at 6:41.
- Karin noted that education has to be a part of this process to help people understand.

### **Operations Manual Update - Jaime**

- Jaime discussed the Recreation & Parks mission statement.
- As an agenda item at the next meeting, thoughts and potential changes to the mission statement will be shared. Discussion about the mission statement as a vision that engages staff.

### **Reynolds & Green Street**

- Heard back from Chris Huntress about Reynolds and Green Street. He wants to re-do core samples (there was no map accompanying the original coring samples, and the CAD drawing was not specific enough).
- The cost of both studies is \$20,000. \$10 for the GeoTech, \$10 for the proper survey needed to submit construction documents. Chris suggested doing the GeoTech first.

### **Park Update - Pete**

- Crew busy with Christmas tree burning on Monday night - cleaned up on Tuesday morning.
- To-do list has been worked on; kayak and pram racks were built today.
- Another application has been received for the open position.
- Cleaning company is moving along - Pete received a quote from Ernesto (Sinclair Cleaning).
- Heard from Tom McGovern asking about Atlantic - the estimate was about \$17,000. Next step: Tom wants an estimate on the entire project (including the painting estimate).
- Fountain Park: Rossana spoke with Hancock Engineering, and will have a quote for the next meeting regarding the stairs, demo, etc.

### **Recreation Update - Jaime**

- We are in week 1 of the January-March season.
- Registration looks strong.
- Ski Bradford was last night.
- As of now, every summer activity is loaded and ready to go. It is comparable to last year. This week or early next week an email will be sent out with the offerings. Some programs have been moved around to work with the loss of the first week of summer.
- As of now, there are returning sailing staff but no director as of yet. Tennis will need a re-build.
- Jaime, Pete, and Olivia became ServeSafe certified.

### **Correspondence**

- Email from Joel Steiner thanking the department for their assistance with the Polar Plunge at Devereux Beach in support of research for Cystic Fibrosis.

Next meeting date: January 22, 2025 at 9 AM.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:36.**

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Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn