

Recreation & Parks

April 15, 2025, 6:30 PM

Community Center

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

Meeting called to order at 6:35.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Move to approve minutes from 4/1/25, pending a clarification that the Efficiency Project is for discussion. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.

Proposed Rotary Sign at Gatchell's Green (Jack Attridge)

- The Rotary Club will take care of flowers under the proposed sign and install recessed lights that can be mowed over. Motion to move forward with the new sign. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.

Procurement Projects Update

- **Baseball:** Shelly and Pete met with Becky; Becky loaded the IFBs and sent them out. We will have site visits with potential bidders. As long as there is no deliberation, more than two commissioners can come. We are trying to encourage local procurement. The bids will open May 8th.
- **Basketball:** Rossana spoke with Mr. McGovern about organizing funds.
 - Discussion: Are we contributing anything toward basketball? Possibly after the fiscal year July 1st: 5 to 10k. The overall cost will be approximately 45 to 50,000.
- **Reynolds Playground:** Tomorrow Shelly and Pete are meeting with Becky again to go over the Reynolds Playground design bid RFP. The plan must be in place before anything else can move forward, and a design is necessary for the plan.

Executive Session

- Move to enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A 21 (a)(2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, as conducting this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the public body. The Board will reconvene in open session following the executive session.
- Move to enter executive session at 7:00. Seconded. All in favor.
- Executive session ended at 7:17. Shelly had to leave.
- The commission has unanimously decided to offer Jaime the position of Superintendent of Recreation. The commission feels confident. Training has been approved up to 3,000.

Park Updates (Pete)

- **Green Street Lights:** The Green Street lights are no longer working. Talked with Rick Macomber. The infield lights are more involved than the outfield. Rick is not sure if the way they are wired is up to code; he will meet with the wiring inspector to take a look at it.

- Peter Jaffe has come before the board with concerns about the lights and the impact it has on his league.
- Discussion: Can the old Gatchells lights from the majors field be brought to Green Street? Pete: it's not the lights, it's the wiring, the timer, and the old fuses. The light department installed fuses that Rick found and they blew again in the infield. The fuses are very old and no longer being made. Karin pointed out that this is the second time we've been in need of lights. It would be worthwhile to look into portable lights. Linda mentioned that Jaime has also expressed interest in having lights to use at Eveleth. Using the fire department's lights could tide us over, but we should invest in portables. The minimum cost to purchase is 10 to 11 thousand. We will look into rental costs.
- Possible short-term solutions: get a second opinion on the issue, try rentals, or use the triple-A field at Gatchell's. Is it possible to remove the timer and just ensure that the lights are turned off at the end of each night?
- Pete will give Pete Jaffe and Mike the part numbers for the fuses and they will try to source them.
- **Devereux Beach ADA grant:** We need a notice of intent for work to make the main bathrooms accessible due to the fact they are in a resource area. We have to talk with the town planner; the notice of intent is a two month process. Other options: moving handicapped spots closer to the gate because it may be far enough out of the resource area, or using the bathrooms at the restaurant as accessible bathrooms. They will meet again early next week to see where we're at. Pete will reach out to Kyle to see if she has keys to the restrooms at the restaurant.
- **Castle Rock:** Pete received an email from Kathy. She brought it to the Neck Association and they are willing to donate 5 to 10,000 toward the project. She presented it to the conservation committee last July and they encouraged a more detailed formal proposal. They provided details for further consideration. Her husband obtained a survey of the park and they will provide an initial plan for a handicap accessible path. As soon as she has something concrete, she will bring it before the board.
- **Boiler:** the boiler for the shop is out. Pete will talk to Becky about it tomorrow.
- **Hammond Nature Center:** Pete will meet with Dean Cuzner.
- We will probably have some summer hires for the next meeting; interviews are lined up.

Recreation Update (Jaime)

- The Sweetheart dance was held last Friday with over 400 participants. It was very successful and Mark Ferrante did a great job DJing.
- This past Sunday we held the egg drop with the fire department and 75 registered participants.
- Meet & greets with young leagues will happen this week before they go out onto the field in May.
- We are running one no-school day for Tuesday. 16 kids are registered.
- We have a quick April programming session.
- New hires are all lined up except for the sailing director.
- Matt spoke to Walker regarding the paddleboard/kayak tournament request. He had notified the Coast Guard and would have them on hand for the event, but will go to Mark Souza as well.

- Karla's event: we will be holding a Recycle Regatta. Children will build vessels out of recycled materials. We will use portable tracks and a box fan to see which vessel is fastest. Meeting with the Board of Health and Harbormaster on April 29th.
- Met with the superintendent of schools. Both of us feel that the current MOU does not need any changes.
 - Eveleth would be usable in the summer during inclement weather. It would need the library's remaining materials to be removed. He will go to the school committee on Thursday night.

Correspondence

- Laney Dowling of Marblehead requests the use of Seaside Park for a Rotary Club Easter egg hunt from 1 to 2 PM on April 20 for roughly 100 people. Move to approve. Seconded. All presents in favor, the motion passes.
- Tawny Callaghan of Marblehead requests the use of Devereux Beach and Seaside Park for an ecology field trip for 7th graders at MVMS on May 25th, from 12 to 2 PM. There will be approximately 220 students and chaperones. Move to approve. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.
- Mark Philip requests the use of the pavilion at Chandler Hovey for a remembrance ceremony on May 3rd, from 8 to 9 AM, with approximately 25 attending. Move to approve. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.
- Lisa Spinale wrote on behalf of Marbleheadpickleball.org to follow up on a request for extending playing time on Monday and Tuesday league nights, and also if the single tennis court at Vets could be double lined for pickleball.
 - Discussion: we've already extended the time from 5 to 5:30. The dual lining: If the PE teachers want it dual lined, they can take it to facilities and ask Todd to do it.

The next meeting will be April 29th at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn