

Recreation Commission Meeting

1/8/2024

Zoom

Commission Attendees: Paul Cowing (Chair), Dave Lind (Vice Chair), Cortney Eldridge (Secretary), Mike Capitani, Theresa O'Connor, Steve Warner, Anthony Ferrante, Ken Krilla

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts, Eric Abruzzi

Call to order 5:34pm

Review and Approve Dec 4th Meeting Minutes

- Approve as amended: Theresa O'Connor, Mike Capitani, Dave Lind, Paul Cowing
- Abstain: Ken Krilla

Summer Camp 2024 plan and fees (possible vote): Brandon and Eric

Recap

- There used to be just one program (SKIP) but split it into two – Camp Cushing and Camp Waverley; one was at Wellington, and one at Burbank; also have CIT program; brought back field trips last summer
- Have been raising quality and expanding enrollment for the last few years; discussed costs/expenses and income from last year and forecasted for this summer
- Planning to run it the same 7 weeks it always runs – June 24th through August 9th – refining and confirming dates with the schools.
- Last year, camp fee was \$340; also had non-resident rate
- If we were doing true cost recovery, recommend the cost is \$380 but that may be sticker shock this year since it's a \$40 jump per camper per week from last year
- Have not raised prices substantially in the past few years
- Do not have a location for summer camp yet; location would not have major impact on pricing. Custodial fees are required at schools during the summer; those fees are included in current budget.
- Hoping to convo with school dept in Feb; hopefully will have camp at the middle school
- We took the Adventure Program off the table for the 2024 summer season.

Questions

Is the cost (\$365) per week or summer?

A: per week

Is there a discount per 2nd child?

A: historically, no; we do offer financial aid; currently we forego the money for scholarships

Is the cost the same per camper?

A: yes – no cost difference

Why aren't we planning for Wellington and Burbank this year?

A: there is some facilities work at Wellington

Are you planning for swim lessons?

A: Do not have a great number of swim instructors (or space/time) at Underwood pool to do so; the best way to accommodate this is if we are at the Higginbottom

What is our maximum enrollment?

A: Maximum number we could take – based on ratio of campers to counselors; planning on 168 across all of the programs; Camp Cushing is our biggest camp – we had 60-70 kids per week and Waverley (older kids) about 40 kids per week

We reduced staff as a result of lower enrollment

Comment: BASEC camp is somewhat analogous – it is \$495 per week; they offer discounts if you enroll in 5, 6, or 7 weeks there's a 5% reduction and 8 or more weeks it's 10% reduction

Some camps have done tiered pricing – this is what our fees are but this is our true cost (if you would like to pay more) – can support scholarships and offset fees

How long has it been at the Wellington? And where is the ideal location?

A: we've been at Wellington longer than Brandon has been here; Wellington is *used* all year long so they have a hard time performing maintenance at the school. The HS/MS campus will be an excellent location but we are reliant on the schools because Rec Dept does not have its own space. Access to the fields, potentially pool, field house, cafeteria, etc. are all really great opportunities.

Do we have non-resident campers with non-resident camper pricing?

A: We do. We usually have about \$20-25 higher fee for non-residents. We give residents a head start with enrollment.

We need to prioritize Financial Aid; some families are really struggling

A: We do not let money be the reason children cannot attend camp, but are looking to improve this with the Revolving Fund

Maybe in the future we can look into discounts for multiple weeks or children?

A: Yes

Is enrollment consistent each week?

A: No – for both staffing and campers, it fluctuates; first two weeks are always lower

Consider half-day (outdoor only if we are inside-space-constrained) in the shoulder times (e.g., after school is out/before camp starts; after camp ends/before school starts)

A: will consider

Motion

Recreation Commission approves the recommended fees presented by the Recreation Director for Belmont SKIP camp, Camp Cushing, and Camp Waverley at \$365 per week for residents and \$415 for non-residents; extended day program fees will be evaluated at a future date (and prorated for 4th of July week).

Approved: Dave Lind, Cortney Eldridge, Mike Capitani, Ken Krilla, Steve Warner, Theresea O'Connor, Paul Cowing
Abstain: Anthony Ferrante

CPC Projects Update: Brandon

Town Field

- Town Field is complete!
- If you see people snowblowing the courts, let the Rec Commission know
- Perhaps add signage to discourage snowblowing/add rules

Grove

- Grove St is under construction!
- Fields are being leveled, graded, prepped, etc.
- Will be laying down sod (likely in the spring)
- Basketball court is prepped and ready – dormant for the winter; slated to be ready June 1st, 2024
- Investigating add'l fences/nets for basketball court to prevent balls from going into the street

PQ

- Basketball court construction will resume in the spring and be ready in the summer (current timeline June 1st, 2024)

Chenery

- "Friends of" group is being started by Laura Barnes and Nichole O'Connell
- Best case, July 1st, 2025 is when primary funding will begin; a 2nd round will be necessary; likely project will really happen in 2026
- Will start to connect with school administration after their budgeting season is over

Master Plan

We had one in 2016 and have met these goals, including reorging the Rec Dept. Time to start looking at a new master plan. We should create a roadmap beyond the inventory and assessment. We will start to look at this sooner than later.

It includes what we want to do with playgrounds and parks

Q: How much do the master plans cost?

A: \$30-40k

Discussion

Field rotation and resting – are hoping to come up with a plan; Grove is in poor shape; PQ is in poor shape

Dog update: Brandon

- Select Board/Health joint meeting is coming up – will report on outcome next meeting.

Rink: Anthony

- The White Field House is no more – has been demolished
- We are remediating the rink (e.g., oil tank, anything that could have asbestos in it, etc.) before we can knock it down
- We are having non-ice conversations – e.g., off-season use

Directors Report

- Marissa has been part of the dog working group and joining us for the Rec Commission – will be approved tonight at 7pm at the Select Board Meeting
- Heidi Barberio is now assistant director of Rec Dept

Question: do we have a Select Board Liaison?

A: Not that we know of

Next MeetingTiming

- February 12th: 5:30pm on Zoom
- March 4th: 5:30pm on Zoom

Meeting Adjourned 6:42pm