



RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

November 8, 2023

7:00 PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Hema Santhanakrishnan (HS), Commissioner; Joe Will (JW), Chair; Steve Trimble (ST), Clerk; Melissa Settipani-Rufo (MSR), Recreation Director.

Absent: David Martin (DM), Select Board liaison.

Public Attendees: none

JW opened the meeting opened at 7:00 PM

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from September.

JW reviewed his changes concerning the Concord Road field. Minutes were accepted as amended.

2. Residents' Concerns

None raised.

3. Reports:

a. Events, Programs, & Facilities

- i. Nightmare at Nara & the annual Monsterbash took place in October. The plan is to run Nightmare at NARA again next year on perhaps three weekends and end at 9:00 PM instead of 9:30 PM.
- ii. Melissa displayed the financial analysis and attendance counts for all summer and fall events. The rainy weather did greatly impact ticket sales and performances this year.
 - a. Sponsorships covered all performer payments.
 - b. The Pride event was covered by the state Municipal Festivals Grant.

b. Main Street Campus

i. Senior Park

- a. The next meeting is on November 16th at 4:00 PM. The meeting will focus on collecting any updates from the team, review the position statement drafted by Dean Charter, which will be used for the Select Board updates, and close the landscape architecture phase. The plan is to request prioritization from the Town. JW noted that the park at Pratts Brook Conservation Area is listed as the "Senior Park". MSR and ST acknowledged. ST suggested we revisit this location for future enhancements.

c. Community Preservation Act

i. Current Projects

- Gardner Playground Renovation
 1. The playground officially opened on Friday, September 29th with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

- 2. The playground's popularity is resulting in noise complaints from neighbors. The Town will be working on placing new park rule signs at all locations. MSR and ST will meet with Julie Pierce on next steps. MSR identified all playground and non-playground locations that will have signs added to the property.
- 3. The merry-go-round equipment is not spinning as designed. The parts are on order but are sourced in Europe and may take some time.
- 4. There was comment that there is a lack of slides at the new playground. The one there faces the sun and is metal.
- 5. MSR passed along a request to install bollards which would prevent cars from accidentally encroaching on the park.
- 6. The gateway sign will need some work to adapt to the entrance size and is being worked on with the artist.
- The Elm Street tennis courts are in use and will be complete once the practice wall is up.
- Elm Street Basketball Court Reconstruction

In October JW requested MSR look at the nearby wall for safety concerns and court unevenness. No action required. JW mentioned again that the court was named for someone and there is no identification there. JW took an action item to get the name.
- NARA Bridge Boardwalk

The bridge work was awarded. MSR noted the pond would be pumped and she will work with Andrea Ristine and Mark Hald on the next steps. The plan is to complete the work this fall.

ii. 2024 Projects

- Jones Field Shade structure: estimated at ~\$40,000.
- NARA Sports Pavilion shade structure: estimated at ~\$55,000. This is intended to replace the five tents which cause havoc to the grass in wet summers and cost \$12,000/year to rent.
- Dog Park: MSR is working with Tom Gillispie on the CPA application.
- MSR noted that she submitted roof replacement requests for the Bathhouse and Amphitheater at ~\$120,000. Maintenance should not come into CPC.

II. New/Special Business

4. Budget:

- Historically, the Recreation budget did not go to Town Meetings but with the planned changes they will begin next May.
- Pros:
 - I. Recreation will be able to retain all revenue to the next fiscal year. In the past all but \$10,000 would be returned to the Town's General Fund.
 - II. As these funds grow there may be an option to add staff once the amount can cover salary and benefits.
- Cons:
 - i. Recreation cannot go over budget. This occurred twice in recent years and now would require the Town Manager to approve a higher budget. This exercise can no longer take place as the budget is set at Town Meeting.

5. OSRP

- Nora in Planning is leading the staff working group.
- The expected completion date is now mid-2024.

6. Additional Business

- Jones Field single-person spinner equipment is no longer spinning. Parts have been ordered and this is covered under warranty.
- MSR will have staff review CPA applications. JW volunteered to read if desired.

Motion to adjourn made by ST, seconded by HS. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Upcoming Recreation Commission Meetings

Date	Time	Location
December 6, 2023	7:00 PM	Virtual
January 3, 2024	7:00 PM	Virtual