

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2013

Attendees: Rick Lacrosse, Rich Gazorian, Paul Pirozzi, Mary Cortese

Meeting started at 7:14 pm in Memorial School conference room

- Approved Minutes from March meeting
- We had a visitor, Shailender Nagpal, who moved to Upton three years ago and was curious about why there are so few recreation fields/parks in Upton. We had healthy discussion on Rec-Com's role, recent initiatives, and what we hope to accomplish in the future. Shailender is interested in helping in any way he can and we discussed possible help in identifying/writing grants, working on Rec Com sub-committee, etc. He was very appreciative of the input we provided and we enjoyed having him come to our meeting and find out more about the government process in town.
- Jeff Thompson, Director of DPW, attended meeting and presented plans for new playground renovation at the town playground near VFW. Jeff discussed several different options and was seeking a donation from the Rec Com towards this effort, which has gained CPC support and will go in front of the voters at Town Meeting in May. After lengthy discussion, the Rec Com voted to contribute two pieces of equipment to the project, the Ten Spin ride and the Tarantuala, with total contribution at roughly \$5,500.00 We also provided Jeff with contact info on several other groups in town that he will plan to solicit donations from as we continues to line up funding for the playground.
- Jeff also discussed the possibility of a second parking lot at Kiwanis Field that would be built off of Cider Mill Road. The town is working with some local contractors on the specific details and Jeff will keep us posted on his progress.
- Jeff updated us on the shed needs at Kiwanis and he is working with the Parks Dept to remove their equipment from the bottom floor of the Ramsey Building, potentially freeing it up for us to put a permanent concession stand in place. More details will be coming soon but it looks like this WILL happen over the next several months and we are going to explore hiring an architect that can work on drawings for converting the existing space into a working kitchen area.
- Jeff is also still working on completing field drainage issue at Memorial Field, which is the final piece needed on the newly renovated fields. He is going to get back to us once they have a plan and his group will also be removing the existing shed (rot issues) and working with us on replacing that, likely in a different location on the field.
- Lastly, we discussed the Wet Field Policy with Jeff and his team at Parks Dept. Because they are now all outfitted with smart phones, Mary will build a master phone list for them which will include one contact from each of the leagues that are registered to use town fields this spring/summer. Town Parks Dept will send group text to all contacts announcing when fields

are CLOSED, so that proper notification can be given to all leagues/coaches. Mary will be copied on all text messages as well.

- Maintenance Schedule on all fields in town – Jeff will consult with Parks Dept and provide us visibility/schedule on what their plans are to shut down fields in coming year for maintenance/renovation so we can include that detail once field usage requests start coming in.
- Ramsey Building – carpet is being installed and painting completed during the upcoming April school vacation week.
- Ramsey Pavilion – remains on schedule for construction in the fall 2013 and Mary is working with all the necessary groups in town to confirm all approvals are in place.
- UMC has decided to cancel Cinco De Maio Event at Kiwanis but will still make their \$4K donation.
- Kids@Play – Mary completed all of the interviews and provided recommendation list of hires for all Directors, swim aids, counselors, gate keepers, etc. Record number of applicants this year and Mary/her team did a great job of getting through all of the interviews! Rec Com unanimously approved all recommended hires and Mary will be contacting all of the employees to let them know.
- Kiwanis concert on July 15th by the Blackstone Valley Quartet. Same group that performed last year and concert will be free to all attendees.
- Field Usage request by Eric Brockett for Kiwanis LAX camp in June. Approved by Rec Com based on paying regular usage fee established
- Dennis Richey has submitted Memorial School outside basketball usage request, same as past several years, and was approved with regular usage fee established.
- Request for two Kids@Play scholarships, due to extenuating circumstances and financial hardship, were approved by Rec Com for one week each.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 and next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd, at Memorial School