

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020  
WESTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Members Present:** Eric Rosenthal (Chair) Julie Johnstone, Elly Pendergast, Melissa Crocker, Trevor MacDonald, Marcy Dorna, and Xinsheng Zhu

**Staff:** Chris Fitzgerald (Director), Sharon Locke (Assistant Director)

**Resident Comments:** None

**The minutes from November 14, 2019 were reviewed and approved.**

*All in favor, none opposed.*

Elly Pendergast would like the Recreation Commission to know that the town has hired a person with an arborist background to oversee the Parks and Cemetery Department.

**Badge Rates & Budgets**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald met with Susan Kelly the Town Treasurer to go over the recreation budget and revenues. The proposed budget for FY 20 showed anticipated revenues at 10% greater than actual revenues in FY 19. This causes the state budget office to ask for justification. The increase is due to the addition of skating, and other unknowns at the time the budget was being developed. Ms. Kelly has recommended that the Recreation Department raise fees where ever it can to make up for the difference.

Mr. Fitzgerald presented the commission with a proposed fee increase for badges. Please see attachment of proposed badge prices. After reviewing the increases there was some concern on behalf of the recreation commission on the increase of the senior citizen badge rate. The recreation commission discussed the proposed badge increases with specific attention given to the senior badge and camp badge. There was debate among the various membership levels and pricing; ultimately pricing was determined as the votes below outline.

**VOTE**

**Motion: Keep the Senior Badge price level at \$30.00.**

*Moved: Mr. Rosenthal, Seconded: Ms. Dorna*

*6 approved, 1 opposed*

*Motion passes by majority*

The Recreation Commission would like to see the non-badge price for classes increase by \$5.00. This will take place after the 2020/2021 badge goes into effect in May.

Discussion took place regarding non-resident badges for the Memorial Pool regarding pricing, allowing for publicity, and who to offer the badge to (abutters of Weston or anyone). Ms. Dorna would like to see adult lap swim as well as a special badge offered for Weston Drama Workshop participants.

## **VOTE**

**Motion: Remove the abutting town restriction on the Non-resident Memorial Pool badges and allow the Recreation Department to publicize the Non-resident badges**

*Moved: Mr. Rosenthal; Seconded: Mr. MacDonald*

*All in favor, none opposed*

*Motion passes unanimously*

**Motion: Keep the same pricing as last year for the Non-Resident Memorial Pool badge.**

*Moved: Mr. Zhu; Seconded: Mr. Rosenthal*

*All in favor, none opposed*

*Motion passes unanimously*

**Motion: Create a new separate Non-resident Senior Badge at the rate of \$200.00 per person.**

*Moved: Ms. Pendergast; Seconded: Mr. Rosenthal*

*6 in favor, 1 opposed*

*Motion passes by majority*

**Motion: To accept all other price increases for recreation badges. See attachment of badge rates.**

*Moved: Mr. Rosenthal, Seconded: Ms. Dorna*

*All in favor, none opposed*

*Motion passes unanimously*

## **Recreation Budget**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald handed out the proposed FY21 recreation budget for the commission to review. Please see attached

Some things that Mr. Fitzgerald is doing to help with the overall budget are:

- Raise Revenue

- Keep a close eye on expenses
- Cut travel, conferences, etc.
- Request pool painting be funded out of Town Capital budget.

Mr. Fitzgerald reminded the Recreation Commission that the software upgrade will be coming out of the IT department budget and not recreation.

Mr. Rosenthal would like to see a strong effort to bring food into the pool this summer to help boost pool revenue. Ideas to consider are: Food trucks, specifically a taco truck, and bring back the All-Purpose Bakery. Also look in to see what it would take to have a beer garden at the pool.

The commission does not necessarily want to see Mr. Fitzgerald cut conferences and continuing education as they feel that this is very important to stay informed and up on current trends in the field, some expressed willingness to advocate as necessary. Mr. Fitzgerald said it was not necessary at this time as there is enough in the FY21 budget to do what had been originally planned.

**Motion: To approve the FY21 Proposed Recreation Budget**

*Moved: Mr. Rosenthal; Seconded Ms. Pendergast*

*All in favor, none opposed*

*Motion passes unanimously*

**Case Campus Council**

**Elly Pendergast**

Ms. Pendergast feels strongly that the stakeholders of the Case Campus need to have meetings on a regular basis to keep the lines of communication open. She believes that the community needs a platform to give input. Ms. Pendergast feels that some of the stakeholders feel isolated and want to be give input on topics such as the traffic.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that he already talks to the library and COA directors on a regular basis. He feels that the communication is already in place and there is presently no need to meet specifically for Case Campus matters.

Further discussion among other commissioners questioned the reasons for meeting and what – if any – other groups should be involved. The main topic identified was traffic on campus. Ultimately, Mr. Fitzgerald was asked to go back to the Library, COA and ask if they felt traffic was an important enough issue to collectively approach the School Committee to discuss this. Additionally, he should approach the Scout House and Land’s Sake as well.

**Pool Feasibility Study****Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald has met with the architect and the work will be starting this week. There will be more to report at the next commission meeting. If everything goes according to planned then the recreation commission should be ready to ask for CPC funding for design fees at the Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Rosenthal asked Mr. Fitzgerald to start working on a plan now for fall town meeting.

**Recreation Master Plan****Melissa Crocker & Trevor MacDonald**

The Recreation Master Plan is moving along, a Master Plan document has been approved pending some final edits. Once it is finished it will be distributed to certain groups in town to look over. Before it is finalized the Recreation Commission and the School Committee will have to sign off on it. The next step will then be to determine the best ways to publicize it and get the information out to the community.

**Registration Software****Chris Fitzgerald**

The registration software upgrade will take place in the new fiscal year. The department will be staying with Vermont Systems Rec Trac. Tracy Sullivan the Town of Weston IT Director is on board with this upgrade and thinks that it is a good choice. The school department will be upgrading along with the recreation department.

**Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- Filling the Open Recreation Commission Seats
- Pool Feasibility Study Update
- Master Plan
- Field reservations and fees

**Next meeting to take place on February 11, 2020 at the Community Center 7:00 AM****Motion: Motion made to adjourn the meeting***Moved: Ms. Pendergast Second: Mr. MacDonald****Meeting Adjourned***

**Attachment 1: Badge rates as voted on by Recreation Commission, effective May 1, 2020**

		<b>FY 19/20 Rate</b>	<b>FY 20/21 Rate</b>	
Weston	All Inclusive family	315	340	
	All Inclusive			
Weston	individual	140	165	
Weston	Seasonal Individual	75	90	
Weston	All Inclusive Senior	30	30	
Weston	Seasonal Family	165	190	
Weston	Camp	90	115	
Weston	Family pool	250	275	
Weston	Individual pool	105	130	
Weston	One-day pool	5	10	
NR	Family	800/900	Same	\$800 until June 1; \$900 after
NR	Individual	400/450	Same	\$400 until June 1; \$450 after
NR	Guest	10	15	
NR	Senior	N/A	200	