

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, February 11, 2020  
WESTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

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

**Staff:** Chris Fitzgerald (Director), Lauren Smith (Program Director)

**Resident Comments:** None

**The minutes from January 7, 2020 were reviewed and approved with one change to include inserting the word “Directors” into the first sentence of second paragraph under Case Campus Counsel section.**

*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.

**Annual Report for 2019**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald handed out a copy of the Department’s annual report and asked if all were comfortable with what was being put forth.

Mr. Rosenthal would like to add that there was approval from the House Dr. regarding CPC funds for the Memorial Pool, Mr. Fitzgerald responded that he will add that in.

Some Commission members were wondering if the Recreation Departments involvement in the Rail Trail should be highlighted as well. Participation in securing grants and absorbing responsibility of programming and execution of benches being placed along the trail. Also, that Recreation was a part of the organizing group for the grand opening.

Mr. Rosenthal would like to see some wording regarding retained earnings and how the Department plans to offset the losses in the future. As well as the reason behind camp and the wage increases under regular business.

Mr. Fitzgerald will send changes to Mr. Rosenthal when completed.

## **VOTE**

**Motion: Accept Annual Report once changes are made and sent to Mr. Rosenthal**

*Moved: Ms. Pendergast, Seconded: Mr. MacDonald*

*All in favor, none opposed*

*Motion passes unanimously*

## **Town Caucus**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald mentioned that there are two spots available on the Commission and interested parties would need to be nominated by current Commission members at the annual Town meeting on March 10, 2020, 7pm at Town Hall. Candidates should be there if possible and 2/3 of the room is needed to get on the ballot. Mr. Rosenthal's term is coming to an end, but he stated he is happy to run again. Commission members are reaching out to individuals and letting them know they can email Mr. Rosenthal for information. Mr. Fitzgerald also stated that he is happy to sit with any party interested looking for more information about the department.

## **Weston Community Center rental pricing**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

The Community Center rental packed was handed out. As of right now the cleanup fee is included in the initial rental fee. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that we added in a set-up fee and a breakdown fee individually and it only includes our equipment that we provide to a rental, not outside equipment. Some Commission members are concerned that our rates are too low compared to other rental spaces especially because we include equipment. Ms. Crocker would be happy to revisit fees with Mr. Fitzgerald and looking at how and where we advertise. Ms. Johnstone would like spreadsheet breakdown of what is rented when to be able to determine accurate reflection in pricing.

## **FY21 Budget**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald has a hearing on Thursday, February 13, 2020 with Finance Commission to review the submitted budget for FY21. Mr. Fitzgerald mentioned that the bottom line has changed a small amount since one part time custodian has been moved out of our budget because they changed jobs over to the Arts and Innovation Center.

## **VOTE**

**Motion: Present the budget as presented today with the custodian change.**

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

*All in favor, none opposed  
Motion passes unanimously*

**Memorial Pool Feasibility**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald passed around a first draft copy for a new bath house from Gienapp that he received at 8pm on February 10, 2020. Mr. Rosenthal thinks it would be wise to start a Community Advisory Panel to talk about pool needs in the community and to cultivate interest. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he received a phone call from a resident, Kathy Dell'Erario, stating interest of being involved and would like to help with fundraising. Mr. Rosenthal would like Mr. Fitzgerald to ask about septic/environmental concerns and impacts that might take place with construction. In addition, he would like Mr. Fitzgerald to find out if the panel would be advisory or voting.

**Recreation Master Plan**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

The Recreation Master Plan is completed. It has been sent to the Board of Selectman for feedback and heard nothing back and it was also shared with Finance. Last steps are to close the contract with the consultants then publish the plan. The committee is working on a schedule for each project and for the work to be completed by those responsible for said work.

**Sign at Burchard Park**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Commission that the sign is completed and will be installed at Burchard Park. The sign was provided by FAST at no cost in exchange for a banner to be hung on the field.

**Next meeting to take place on March 12, 2020 at the Community Center 7:00 AM**

**Motion: Motion made to adjourn the meeting**

*Moved: Ms. Crocker, Second: Mr. Rosenthal*

***Meeting Adjourned***