

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019, 6:30 PM
WESTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

Members Present: Eric Rosenthal (chair) Xinsheng Zhu, Elly Pendergast, Melissa Crocker, Victoria Whalen, Marcy Dorna

Absent: Matt Schulman

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

Guests: Jennifer Warner (Library Director, Weston Arts & Innovation), Audrey Pepper (Weston Arts & Innovation), Hank Lawlor (Weston Little League).

Resident Comments: No resident comments

Ms. Victoria Whalen was recognized and thanked for her many years of service to the Recreation Commission.

The minutes from February 21, 2019 were reviewed and approved.

Weston Arts & Innovation Presentation

Jennifer Warner & Audrey Pepper

Before beginning the presentation Ms. Warner would like to thank the Weston Recreation Commission for approving the "Little Library" at Lamson Park. Ms. Warner and Ms. Pepper presented on the ideas and goals of the new Weston Arts and Innovation Center. There has been a lot of community support and construction is almost done. Weston Media will be a tenant in the building. There will also be a meeting room, a reading room, a dry maker space, and a wet maker space. There will be a laser cutter, a 3-D printer, and a printing press. The third floor will be a community collaborative space. Right now there are no plans to offer classes for children. A full time manager will be hired. WAIC is would be more than happy to collaborate with the Weston Recreation Department. Find out more at their website: westonaic.org

Sponsorship Policies on Recreation Fields

Chris Fitzgerald & Hank Lawlor

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that a town wide policy is hard to apply due to the nature of the sports and the areas that they use. Mr. Fitzgerald feels that any advertising should be temporary and focused on the users of the activity. Mr. Fitzgerald would like to recommend that this policy be dealt with on a case by case basis. Each case would need to be considered by the Recreation

Commission on an individual basis. After some discussion the Recreation Commission felt that the wording needed to be “tighter”. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that there are guidelines but felt that they should not be made public. The Recreation Commission can look at and agree upon the guidelines but only internally. Ms. Whalen wants it in writing that a group such as Little League Baseball needs to be reviewed each year.

Mr. Rosenthal asked Mr. Fitzgerald to draft a policy that explains the Recreation Commission’s right to review any sponsorship requests. Mr. Rosenthal would also like to see Mr. Fitzgerald invite Mr. Ben Polimer, head of fields, to an upcoming Recreation Commission meeting to make a presentation on Weston Fields.

CPC Representative

Eric Rosenthal

Mr. Rosenthal has emailed the Board of Selectman as well as Mr. Chris Houston about the seat on the CPC Board. He has not received a reply. Mr. Rosenthal reminded the Recreation Commission that when the Board of Selectmen appoints one of their own to sit on the CPC board in the absence of a park representative is consistent with the state law. Ms. Pendergast feels that it is essential to have someone from the Recreation Commission fill that seat.

Sewage Treatment Plant Update

Chris Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the discussion from the past meeting regarding the sewage treatment plant. Mr. Fitzgerald would like to clarify that the study to expand has been completed. To expand to 50,000 would cost 10 million dollars and then to expand another 50,000 would cost an additional 3 million dollars. Mr. Fitzgerald spoke to the Recreation Staff and the staff felt that maybe an extra classroom or gym could be needed but did not see an immediate or dire need for either one for the recreation department at this time. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that treatment would not be necessary to accommodate a pool renovation in the future, as the Board of Health was supportive of a previous concept to expand the changing and bathroom areas and felt that would be beneficial to existing septic since it would be exercising it more when school is not in session.

Ms. Dorna asked how this would affect the COA? Ms. Dorna would like the vision of the Recreation Department also include seeing the COA programs grow. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the COA is finishing up their own needs study. Ms. Dorna would like to see recreational opportunities for senior citizens grow by perhaps utilizing the Case Campus property.

Mr. Rosenthal agrees with Mr. Fitzgerald that there is not an immediate desperate need for additional space on behalf of the Recreation Department; however Mr. Rosenthal reminded the commission that the Recreation Master Plan Study may show otherwise. Mr. Rosenthal

suggested having a statement that ties Recreation's position to the Recreation Master Plan once it is completed.

Case Campus Council

Elly Pendergast

Mr. Rosenthal asked Ms. Pendergast to please explain her vision of the Case Campus Council. Ms. Pendergast explained that her vision of the Case Campus Council would be to provide a vehicle to come together to communicate about issues on the campus. It would allow for more communications among each stakeholder within Case Campus. The council could work on things that directors are too busy to work on such as the traffic issue. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he has never felt a disconnect with other groups on Case Campus and meets regularly with all of the other directors. Mr. Rosenthal stated that he felt that too many meetings may be unfavorable to many people. Mr. Rosenthal suggested only meeting quarterly or three times per year. Mr. Zhu suggested inviting representatives from the other groups to come to a Recreation Commission meeting to determine interest. After that, determine if there is enough interest to pursue then go from there.

Recreation Field Signs

Chris Fitzgerald

In prior discussions the Recreation Commission had agreed to model the field signs off of the maroon/red school signs. Historical Commission asked if the signs could be changed to the color green. At the time of their request Mr. Fitzgerald had already purchased the signs. The signs cost \$900 in total. It would cost \$700 to redo the signs. After some discussion the Recreation Commission decided to go ahead and hang the current signs and as they need to be replaced they will re-visit the color.

Traffic and Speed on Case Campus

Elly Pendergast

Ms. Pendergast would like Mr. Fitzgerald and the Recreation Commission to sit down and talk to the stake holders of Case Campus about the traffic, speeding, and parking problems on Case Campus. Mr. Fitzgerald has already been in touch with the police and fire departments and has been advised to speak directly to the school department. Ms. Whalen would like to see portable speed bumps put out in front and then taken away in the winter for plowing purposes.

Recreation Master Plan

Chris Fitzgerald & Melissa Crocker

The Master Plan survey has been completed. There will be a new, brief follow-up survey designed to explore the general findings of the first one, and get more meaningful data. CPC will be giving the Recreation Master Plan Committee an additional \$10,000 to finish the project. This will save the Recreation Department \$5,000.

Rail Trail Update**Eric Rosenthal**

The bids are in for the trailhead work. The bids came in much higher than estimates projected. Members of the committee were split on a bench decision between granite and wood. So a proposal was made to put granite closer to the road and put wood benches on the trail. The DCR would prefer to see more standard type benches. 751 Boston Post Road will impact the Rail Trail. The developer is planning 180 units but will give the back parcel back to the town for possibly a park or comfort station. Further consideration will need to be given to policing the trail.

Memorial Pool**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Locke connected with some playground supply companies to discuss adding play value to the sandbox at the pool. They will be meeting with a representative from O'Brien and Sons on April 18th to discuss possible play equipment in the sandbox.

Next Meeting

- Possibly Wednesday April 24, 2019 or Thursday April 25, 2019. Mr. Fitzgerald to confer with Mr. Rosenthal at a later date.

Motion: Motion made to adjourn the meeting

Moved: Mr. Zhu, Second: Ms. Crocker

Meeting Adjourned