

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY July 16, 2020 7:00 AM via ZOOM**

Pursuant to Gov. Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 modifying the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, the Recreation Commission, to ensure the safety of all participants, held its meeting remotely via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87902952906>, Meeting ID: 879 0295 2906.

Members Present: Eric Rosenthal {chair}, Melissa Crocker, Trevor MacDonald, Julie Johnstone, and Maija Cirulis Gooch

Absent: Marcy Dorna, Elly Pendergast

Staff: Chris Fitzgerald (Director), Sharon Locke (Assistant Director), Lauren Smith (Program Coordinator)

Guests: Gerri Scoll and Kathy Dell'Erario

Resident Comments: None

Previous meeting minutes.

The minutes from the June 4, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pool Renovations

Chris Fitzgerald and Kathy Dell'Erario

Ms. Gerri Scoll {resident guest}, asked about preventative maintenance and evaluation, particularly relating to the submersible pump. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the submersible pump is run bi-weekly in the winter. In his research, he found that past Recreation Directors have experienced problems with pumps used for this function since 1977. Our consultants believe the pump may be too powerful for the task it's needed for and thus overheats when put into use. Mr. Fitzgerald is working with the consultants and the Town's facilities department to have an engineer analyze the piping system to determine the necessary power needs of the pump.

A survey was sent out through Weston's Civic Send and was posted on all social media. There were seven responses of people who wanted to serve as a community volunteer to help with the pool renovations. Mr. Rosenthal would like to see the survey sent out to all pool members.

Mr. Fitzgerald is waiting to hear back from the Board of Health in regard to whether or not an indoor shower area is needed, as adding showers could double the cost of the project from \$2 million to \$4 million. Mr. Fitzgerald would like the project to include new filters, expansion of concession, and added play amenities. Ms. Dell'Erario will be heading up the community volunteer committee. She stated that she has done her own informal survey and people want the pool to stay the same.

Discussion took place among the Recreation Commission regarding when the best time is to ask for the money. The Commission decided to keep moving forward with the project and did not think that doing it little by little was a good strategy, also keeping in mind that the filters are

reaching the end of their usable life. Mr. Rosenthal asked Mr. Fitzgerald to speak to the Select Board and to FINCOM to see if there was any reason why they could not keep moving forward with the project and possibly seek funding at the Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald also added that the CPC Board is interested in helping with the project. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch also suggested looking into adding a water slide because it would give the Memorial Pool a value that most backyard pools and health club pools do not have. She suggested a water slide for consideration and thinks families will be attracted to Memorial Pool for that.

Mr. Rosenthal asked Mr. Fitzgerald to write a new timeline for the pool renovation. Mr. Rosenthal would also like to see a push for more volunteers for the citizen's committee and then hold the first official meeting.

Weston Drama Workshop Application

Chris Fitzgerald

Weston Drama Workshop had requested a recreation field for an outdoor performance on an outdoor stage the end of July. The request was denied by the town's Emergency Management Team.

Mr. Rosenthal and Ms. Johnstone left the meeting at 8:00 a.m. At this point, there was no longer a quorum.

Summer Programming

Recreation Staff

Ms. Lauren Smith reported that the summer programming at Burchard Park is going much better than expected. The program services 52 kids a week and all rules regarding cleaning and social distancing are followed. The staff has done a fantastic job sanitizing equipment before and after use. Ms. Locke reported that Pickleball is an extremely popular program with both classes running and the Intro Class has a waitlist. Archery lessons are also running. Recreation will be teaming up with Weston based Intuitive Wellness to offer some fitness classes for youth and adult. Intuitive Wellness also offers a Neurodiverse class. Mr. Fitzgerald has been working with youth baseball on social distancing and following the state guidelines. Currently youth baseball is the only group using recreation fields. All high school fields are still closed. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch suggested holding an outdoor family movie night.

Fall programming is going to be greatly affected by the state guidelines as well as what the school department decides to do. There will not be a printed brochure so that way things can remain fluid and be changed if need be. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch asked about the possibility of setting up a large tent outside to run classes under in early fall. Mr. Fitzgerald and his staff will look into this idea.

Next Meeting It was agreed that the Recreation Commission should meet in August due to the ever-changing regulations of Covid and to further discuss pool renovations. Mr. Fitzgerald will send out a Doodle Poll to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM.