

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY August 19, 2020 7:00 AM**

Pursuant to Gov. Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 modifying the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee, to ensure the safety of all participants, held its meeting remotely via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87861315712>, Meeting ID: 878 6131 5712, call-in 646-558-8656.

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

Absent: Marcy Dorna

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

Guest: Adam King

Resident Comments: None

Previous meeting minutes: The minutes from the July 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pool Renovations

Chris Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Locke met with the Board of Health who supported moving the proposed bath house out of the renovation plans. However, the Board of Health would like to see an upgrade to the outdoor showers to include proper drainage. Mr. Rosenthal questioned whether or not this would be approved by the state board of health and Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the local Weston Board of Health would have to apply for a variance through the state board of health. Ms. Johnstone suggested that a future bathhouse be part of the plans so that it could be easily staged in or adapted for future plans.

Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Locke will clarify what of the current concept is eligible for CPC funding. They will also work on pulling together the Memorial Pool Committee to survey the needs to the public and look over potential fundraising ideas. Mr. Fitzgerald suggested our goal should be to acquire construction fee at the fall Special Town Meeting , then take 6-12 months for planning, secure construction funds at either Special Town Meeting 2021 or Annual Town Meeting 2022, depending on the timing with completed construction documents, then begin construction at the close of the swimming season 2022 so that it can be completed by the opening of 2023.

Mr. Rosenthal encourages Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Locke to work on establishing a charter and goals for the Memorial Pool Committee. Commissioners willing to serve on the pool committee: Mr. Rosenthal, Ms. Crocker, Ms. Cirulis Gooch; Mr. King also expressed interest.

In regard to the pump issues at the pool, Mr. Fitzgerald reported that an engineer has been retained to analyze the workload needed and recommend the proper pump specifications before the pump company gets a replacement. The pump is thought to be too powerful which causes it to overheat and fail. The pump will need to be replaced and the power of the pump will be determined by the engineer's findings.

The Recreation Department does not yet know if they will have use of the middle school pool yet this year as that is determined by the School Board. The Red Waves Team already has a reopening plan in place which is being submitted to the Emergency Management Team.

Weston Community Center Rental Fee Discussion

Chris Fitzgerald/Melissa Crocker

The commission reviewed the new pricing structure proposed by Mr. Fitzgerald for the building rentals. There were many questions regarding the pricing and the different pricing regarding prime time versus non-prime time. There were also many suggestions in regard to how to publicize facility rentals. Ms. Cirulis Gooch has a background in this and would like to help with the pricing and advertising. Mr. Fitzgerald will work with Ms. Crocker and Ms. Cirulis Gooch to rework the pricing structure, once that is approved, Ms. Cirulis Gooch will work with Ms. Locke on the publicity aspect of facility rentals.

Field Permitting

Chris Fitzgerald/Trevor MacDonald

Mr. MacDonald and Ms. Johnstone both feel that the pricing for field permits are exceptionally low. Mr. MacDonald feels that the recreation pricing is particularly low on priorities #5 and #6. He feels like the price should be bumped up at least \$25 on priorities 3-6. Ms. Johnstone added that if a field is being used for a tournament then the pricing should go way up.

Mr. Fitzgerald is working on a draft for policy for private lessons that are taking place on the fields. A suggestion was made to consider making the picnic pavilion at Burchard Park available for Birthday Party rentals. A discussion also took place regarding un-permitted private tennis lessons. Better signage and communication was recommended. It was also suggested that the Recreation Department look into the possibility of working with lesson providers to publicize a list of those who have been approved in as a way of encouraging instructors to complete the process and provide a service to residents.

Brook School Apartments Tennis Courts and Field

Chris Fitzgerald

The tennis courts and field at the Brook School Apartment Complex remain closed due concerns from the residents of Brook School Apartments. Both Mr. Rosenthal and Ms. Crocker asked Mr. Fitzgerald to look further into this to see when it will be possible for Weston residents to begin using the tennis courts and field again. Mr. Rosenthal suggested a phased reopening of Brook School where some of the space is reserved for Brook School residents only. Mr. Fitzgerald will speak to the EMT regarding the Brook School tennis courts and fields.

Summer Programs

Chris Fitzgerald

The summer program (alternative camp program) went extremely well. Most weeks were filled, and all safety protocol was followed with no problems.

Ms. Crocker expressed that parents really want the following fall programs for their kids, track & field, cross country, martial arts, tennis lessons, boot camp, and some type of fitness program.

Since there will be no printed program brochure this fall due to ever changing regulations of Covid-19, Mr. Rosenthal would like to see the Recreation Department find other forms of advertising. He suggested the following: postcard mailing, sandwich boards, PTO newsletter, COA newsletter, Weston Media, and SWAG.

Next Meeting Mr. Fitzgerald will send out a Doodle Poll to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 am