

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019, 7:00 PM  
WESTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Members Present:** Eric Rosenthal (chair – on phone until 7:10 pm then present) Xinsheng Zhu, Julie Johnstone, Trevor MacDonald, Elly Pendergast and Melissa Crocker

**Absent:** Marcie Dorna

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

**Resident Comments:** No resident comments

**The minutes from May 22, 2019 were reviewed and approved.**

**The minutes from June 10, 2019 were reviewed and approved.**

**Sponsorship Policy**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

(see attached) There has been no change in the newly proposed policy since the last time the Recreation Commission reviewed it. All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must be renewed annually. The size will be left as “modest in size” and it will be determined after a viewing or presentation to the recreation commission. No permanent structures will be allowed. All signage must be removeable.

**Motion made to approve the Sponsorship Policy as written.**

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

**Vote: All in favor none opposed**

The Sponsorship Policy passes unanimously

Mr. Rosenthal asked Mr. Fitzgerald to follow up with Mr. Tack Chase to let him know that the Recreation Commission heard his concerns which allowed the commission to review the policy.

**Summer Pool Tour**

**Eric Rosenthal**

This summer three recreation commissioners (Ms. Dorna, Ms. Crocker, and Mr. Rosenthal) along with two staff members (Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Locke) toured three pools in the surrounding communities of Lexington, Needham, Newton as well as the Memorial Pool in Weston.

Mr. Rosenthal summed up some of the things that were viewed at the other pools:

- There was no seating area at Lexington or Newton. Needham had a grassy terrace built into the side of a hill but not an ideal seating area.
- All three neighboring pools had free sunscreen stations for patrons
- Newton and Lexington did not sell food and did not allow any outside food into their pool area. Needham sold limited ice cream and had vending machines. Needham did allow outside food to be bought in. No pool had a grill.
- All three pools had more than one pool at their facility
- All three pools had fields, tennis courts, basketball, and playgrounds just outside of their pool area.
- There was designated adult time at other pools
- All three pools had either a slide or a splash feature or both

Mr. Rosenthal observed the following about the Weston Memorial Pool

- There was a definite peaceful beach-like atmosphere at the Weston Pool.
- There was a lot of space for families to picnic, sit, and spend the day with the create comforts of grass and trees
- Need new furniture
- Need better access to more food items
- Poor/old amenities
- Lap lanes are too short and not idea for serious lap swimmers
- No slides or splash features
- No proximity to other amenities such as tennis.

These are possible areas to take advantage of as an extension of the Master Plan

## **Pool Renovations**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

The filter will need to be replaced by 2023-2025. Mr. Rosenthal suggested formulating a calendar and working backwards to determine a timeline for filter replacement and other renovations.

If basing the date on the year 2023, Mr. Rosenthal would like to know the timeline for the things such as going to Town Meeting, request for CPC funding, etc. Mr. Rosenthal also made it clear that he does not want several options to be debated, he just wants the best plan to be put forward. Mr. Fitzgerald is working the Facilities Director on obtaining a house doctor to come in and give preliminary ideas on what needs to be done. Potentially would like to see the approval of construction funds go to Fall Town Meeting in 2021. The pool renovation will fall under the Recreation Commission and not the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee.

## Programming

**Chris Fitzgerald**

**Memorial Pool:** Attendance was flat to slightly down. Mr. Fitzgerald will send the specific pool numbers out to the Commissioners. Mr. Fitzgerald would like the commission to consider looking at what other towns do for non-resident fees and memberships. Mr. Fitzgerald would like to be allowed to post information about the non-resident memberships in the normal Recreation materials. Same stipulations regarding the non-resident membership would apply but just be allowed to make them public. Mr. Rosenthal would like the commission to discuss pool membership prices at the next meeting.

**Summer Camp:** Another highly successful season. (please see attachment) The already high numbers were up 5% from the summer of 2018.

**Ice Skating:** The program will be run exactly the same as it had been in past years when run by the Weston Skating Club, but it will now fall under Weston Recreation. Goal is to offer at the same quality as Weston Skating Club, to at least maintain participation from last year, and financially to be able to cover expenses.

**Pickleball:** One court at the Brook School Apartments is painted with pickleball lines and holding up well. The other court is taped. There has been a lot of interest in Pickleball and the trial clinics went great. Ms. Pendergast asked Mr. Fitzgerald to look into taping the courts at the Middle School gym and allowing pickleball to be played during Recreation Open Gym time.

## Recreation Master Plan

**Melissa Crocker**

The Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee held two public input sessions. There were 14 people present on the Thursday night meeting and 11 people present on the Saturday meeting. The Thursday night meetings saw a lot of people representing community groups. Both meetings skewed older in the audience. The general feedback is that people are concerned about cost. The most common factor was that people want indoor space separate from school space which would have public access, such as a pool, courts, and gym. The next step will be to go over the feedback and meet with the consultants.

## Rail Trail

**Eric Rosenthal**

The Rail Trail committee is completing its work and looking to turn over responsibilities to the necessary committees and groups in town. They will approach Recreation for much of this.

Recreation needs to identify when different issues come up who should be the ones to deal with them. Friends of the Legacy Trail Weston 300<sup>th</sup> may also be involved with issues that arise but Recreation would always be representing the town side. Mr. Fitzgerald emphasized that we need to be cognizant on how any additional duties will impact operations.

Plantings have been installed over the summer. A second set of plantings will hopefully be approved at town meeting. DCR is responsible for maintaining the brush along the trail. Painting a mural in the underpass has been deferred for now.

The Grand Opening of the Rail Trail will be October 19<sup>th</sup>. Details are still being planned.

### **New Business**

Reminder that the opening for the Weston Arts and Innovation Center will be on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>

The annual 9-11 Flag Ceremony will take place tomorrow morning on the Town Green.

**Next meeting** – The next meeting will be Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm

***Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.***

## **Attachment 1: Sponsorship policy**

### **Weston Recreation Commission**

#### **Policy for sponsorship signs on athletic fields**

The Weston Recreation Commission acknowledges that some town-based athletic sport organizations such as Weston Little League Baseball and Softball and Weston Soccer Club will contribute to maintenance costs of the fields that they use, in lieu of paying user-fees. In some cases, their investment will be significant and will ensure maintenance at a level beyond what the Town may be able to attain. This reflects well on the town from an aesthetic and safety perspective. These expenses may be costly, and the organizations may need to draw on revenue such as company sponsorships to help subsidize these expenses.

The Recreation Commission also recognizes that regardless of the investment made by youth sports, the fields are under the ownership of the Town and fall under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Commission, meaning they are open to the public and subject to all applicable rules, regulations, bylaws etc. There is also a desire to keep the aesthetic appeal of fields and other properties consistent with the semi-rural nature of the town.

For these reasons, all requests for sponsorship signs must come before Recreation Commission for review and approval. Each request must be reviewed annually where applicable. The Recreation Commission will base its decision on the following considerations:

- The intended use of the revenues from sponsorship signs.
- The extent to which such revenues will contribute to field maintenance.
- Visual aspects including:
  - Modest size.
  - The targeted area – signs must target users of the intended activity and not the general public.
  - Color schematic.
  - Location on site.
- The ability to be displayed on a temporary basis and plan for removal.
- The extent to which the sponsors targeted will be from Weston or nearby communities and beneficial to Weston Residents.
- The extent to which businesses targeted would be suitable to promote for all ages (i.e. casinos, alcohol would not be suitable).

All requests must come before the Recreation Commission for review and approval at a public meeting. All Recreation Commission approvals are subject to change if the siting and design of signs have changed during production.