

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019, 7:00 PM
WESTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

Members Present: Eric Rosenthal (chair) Xinsheng Zhu, Julie Johnstone, Elly Pendergast, Melissa Crocker, Marcy Dorna (arrived at 7:15 pm) and Trevor MacDonald (arrived at 8:00 pm)

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

Guests: Bharath Venkataraman (Finance Committee), Karen Meslin (Finance Committee)

Resident Comments: Mr. Venkataraman has been attending town board meetings as part of the Finance Committee so that FINCOM can be aware of each board's budget and any large-scale projects that maybe happening in the future. FINCOM would like to be more familiar with town boards especially before the board may come to them to ask for money at Town Meeting. FINCOM carries no mandate at town meeting but the opinion of the board is valued by some residents.

The minutes from September 10, 2019 were reviewed and approved.

Memorial Pool Repairs

Chris Fitzgerald

Recreation was able to get through the summer of 2019 with the underground leak. The contractor estimated that it would cost about \$15,000 to repair. A bookmark has been put into the warrant to save a spot for an article at town meeting addressing the repair work. Work on the leak began on October 2nd and it was found that the leak was well contained and had occurred in the flex connector. It was fixed in one day and the total cost should be well below \$15,000. If the cost is low enough to be covered in this year's operating budget, the article will be pulled.

Memorial Pool Renovations

Chris Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald is working with facilities to secure a "House Doctor to look at the pool renovation feasibility. Due to the lower number of pool memberships, retained earnings has been used to balance the recreation budget and the amount remaining in retained earnings has dropped significantly. Mr. Fitzgerald is working with the Town's Finance Director to explore ways to ensure the budget stays balanced moving forward without exhausting all retained earnings funds.

Mr. Rosenthal would like Mr. Fitzgerald to look into the possibility of using CPC Admin funding to cover the initial steps of the pool renovations.

Ms. Johnson would like Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Locke to find actual useable data regarding the pool that can be used moving forward in the renovation process, including attendance by age and badge type.

Mr. Venkataraman would like to encourage the Recreation Commission to always give the finance department a heads up when they are going to be asking for funding. The more advanced notice, the better. Always back up any requests with actual data and have a solid plan and timeline already in place before coming to the Finance Committee. Mr. Venkataraman suggested factoring about \$5000 per year for unexplained repairs and also an account where money can be put for long range repairs and renovations. He also suggested creating a policy in regards to retained earnings.

Case Campus Construction and Traffic

Elly Pendergast

Speed of traffic around the Community Center continues to be a concern to Ms. Pendergast. She would like to see a yellow line painted down the middle of the road, especially in the curve area, she would also like to see temporary speed bumps installed. Mr. Fitzgerald said that speedbumps will not be installed until after the construction is done because they would get damaged from all the heavy equipment and trucks. Ms. Pendergast would also like to see the seating area in front of the Community Center roped off so children cannot run into the street. Mr. Fitzgerald recommended not roping off the seating area because (1) it was designed as a walk through to encourage seating, and (2) children are attracted to the tree which is closer to the building; by roping off the children would be attracted to the rope and thus be drawn closer to the street, thus creating a safety concern that isn't present now. After some discussion the other commissioners did not support roping off.

Elderly Housing

Chris Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald met with Tom Timco and Tack Chase to talk about the expansion of the Brook School Apartments. There is nothing new to report on the progress. Residents do like having the tennis courts on their property available to them. The residents also like the soccer fields on the property because it allows them to see families and kids at play. If any additional housing at Brook School impacts the current tennis courts, right now their thought is to replace the courts somewhere else within the current property as part of the same project.

Fall Programming

Chris Fitzgerald

Revenue from fall programming is up over previous years. There has been an explosion in youth programming. Recreation afterschool buses have expanded to two buses per day, four days per week. Adult programming continues to hold steady with a few fitness classes and the partnership with Longfellow Tennis.

The Recreation Commission would like Mr. Fitzgerald to look further into pricing adjustments.

Ms. Pendergast would like Mr. Fitzgerald to look into the possibility of offering indoor pickleball at the Middle School.

Recreation Master Plan

Chris Fitzgerald & Trevor MacDonald

A draft of the Master Plan was sent by Weston & Sampson for review on October 2nd. The Master Plan Committee will be meeting to review the plan.

Ms. Meslin of the Finance Committee encouraged the Master Plan Committee and Recreation Commission to break the Master Plan into a list of three things: 1. What must be done. 2. A list with reasonable priorities. 3. A dream list.

Mr. Venkataraman of the Finance Committee encouraged the Master Plan Committee and Recreation Commission to have a prioritized list, do all your homework, and be sure to do due diligence before appearing before the finance committee for funding.

Rail Trail

Eric Rosenthal

The advisory Rail Trail Committee is approaching the end of its charge, they will disband by the end of the fiscal year and they are working to distribute the remaining work load to the appropriate Commissions and Committees in town. Recreation is going to be asked to take on certain tasks. October 19, 2019 is the Opening Ceremony which will begin in Wayland at 10:30 am at the Wayland Train Depot. There will be a Pass-the-Ribbon relay into Weston which will cover four segments lead by various Wayland and Weston based civic groups, and end with a ribbon cutting at the Church Street spur in Weston.

For proposed Recreation tasks involving the future tasks of the Weston Rail Trail please see the highlighted portion of the attachment.

Motion: The Recreation Commission will assume the highlighted responsibilities on the Rail Train task list.

Moved: Mr. Rosenthal, Second: Ms. Pendergast

All in favor, none opposed.

Next meeting – The next meeting will be Thursday November 14, 2019 at 7:00 AM

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Appendix 1: Rail Trail responsibilities.

RTAC responsibilities or open business	Delegated to
	*FLRT = Friends of the Legacy Rail Trail 501(c)3
3 remaining approved bench locations	RecCom, FLRT, ConCom
Issues around benches & maintenance	RecCom, FLRT
Church Street Station	BOS, Historical, FLRT, DCR, MBTA, etc.
Maintenance/up-keep on trail	DPW, FLRT, DCR
Maintenance/up-keep at trailheads	DPW, FLRT
Signage, current and future	FLRT, DCR
Plantings/screening	FLRT, ConCom,
Parking	DPW, Traffic & Sidewalk
Abutter issues	FLRT referred where appropriate
Dogs & their owners	FLRT, Animal officer
Safety promotion & enforcement	Police Dept, FLRT
Coordin. w/ neighboring towns & trails	FLRT, Forest & Trails
Trestle bridge, last 100 yards	FLRT, BOS
Historical education	Historical comm, FLRT
Promotion of trail use & events	FLRT, RecCom
Future amenities	FLRT, RecCom
Gun Club Lane entrance	FLRT, Forest & Trails, ConCom,
Rail Trail & Town website	FLRT, Town
MassCentral RT website	FLRT, Town, DCR & ?