



Town of Redding

RECEIVED June 12, 2023 @ 8:30AM
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3 Pages

Park and Recreation Commission

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Monday, June 5, 2023, 7:00 – In person
Redding Community Center -Multi Purpose Room

Present: Tami O'Connor, Angela Caes, Lorcan O'Connor, Jaymie Massaro, Patrick Schuchard, Mary Lou Carlson, Will Rook, Brett Chapin, Rob Blick

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Caes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. O'Connor motioned to adopt the May Meeting Minutes. Mr. Rook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

An email from Alice Gerrard was sent to Mr. Blick expressing her continued frustration with the communication between herself and the Commission regarding the community garden.

WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Court Task Force

- Tennis Court Completion - The contractor will be returning to repair the chipping lines on the courts, and Mr. Blick and a member of the Commission will do one more walk through with the contractor to ensure the new courts are up to our expectations.
- Pickleball Completion -Ms. O'Connor reported back on several items that were covered during the Courts Task Force meeting.
 - The group recommends that the two new dedicated pickleball courts as well as two tennis courts should be reservable during peak hours on the weekends.

Ms. O'Connor made a motion that the four courts (two dedicated pickleball courts, and two tennis courts) will be available for town residents to rent for \$20/hr., in one-hour increments. Each resident can make up to two reservations per weekend, and all reservations will be made through the Park and Recreation website. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

This will take affect and will be available on the Park and Recreation website for the first weekend in July.

- The Task Force also recommended that the permanent rules that will be displayed on the courts will be simple bullet points, and the detailed rules will be posted on the Park

and Recreation website and will also be displayed in the message board, which will be mounted on the fence outside of the tennis courts.

- There will be a pickleball social on Saturday, June 24 from 11 am to 3 pm with a rain date of June 25. The courts will be closed to the general public during this time. Cost to participate will be \$20. Proceeds will be earmarked for pickleball related expenses. Lessons for beginners will be available at no additional charge.

Topstone Improvement Engineering Update

Ms. Caes updated the commission that the proposal for a Topography Mapping of Topstone was completed and on the Selectman's desk for immediate approval. We anticipate the approval this week. The Mapping will allow the commission to bid the upcoming work for Topstone improvements.

STEAP Grant/Community Center Walking Path

- The Commission is requesting permission for an engineer RFP for Phase one. The Task Force will now also include Ms. Massaro and will need to find a date to meet to discuss the specifics to move forward with Ms. Pemberton. Currently, that Task Force includes Mr. Graziano, Ms. Carlson, and Ms. Massaro.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Blick provided a written Director's Report and several commission members requested additional information and clarification. Regarding the camp registration, Ms. O'Connor asked what the break-even point is for most of the programs. Mr. Blick said that the day camp number is approximately 60 and Travel Camp is around 33-34 campers.

Ms. O'Connor also asked when Mr. Blick would be purchasing a new mower given the current condition of one of our machines. It's likely the Park and Recreation Department will purchase a new mover by the Fall.

Regarding field allocation, the question was raised as to whether the users of our fields are non-profit. Mr. Blick confirmed that they are, and the other condition is that 75% of the program is composed of Redding residents. Mr. Shuchard expressed concern that there is at least one organization that uses Redding fields and utilizes primarily parent and high school volunteers for practices and games, yet charges the families of the participants an exorbitant amount to participate. He would like to investigate running such programs in-house.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Community Garden -

There was continued discussion regarding the effort to encourage the members of the Community Garden to become self-governing. Mr. Blick has composed an email correspondence to poll the gardeners to see if they are in favor, and, if so, who would be willing to serve as a member of that Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Carlson requested that the highway department or the Park and Recreation employees water the flowers at the new playground, especially during times of extended drought. Ms. Carlson also expressed concern regarding the watering of the newly transplanted tree on the town green. Mr. Blick confirmed that the tree is being watered weekly for an extended period of time.

Mr. Rook would like to evaluate the success of the goals we discussed at our November meeting and would like a status update. This item will be added to the July Agenda.

There was a discussion regarding private lessons (pickleball and tennis) on town property. The Commission has previously decided that group lessons by private individuals are not allowed. The rationale is that the Park and Recreation Department provides group lessons and private instructors will compete for the business on town property.

The Commission would like to explore allowing individuals to become registered instructors. This would involve a close working relationship between the instructors and the Park and Recreation Department. The instructors be required to provide a certificate of insurance, and a percentage of their fees would be paid to the town. The Commission has asked the Courts Task Force to explore this concept further at their next meeting.

SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. O'Connor at 9:43 PM and was seconded by Ms. Caes. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Tami O'Connor - Co-chair