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Town of Redding

Park and Recreation Commission

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Monday, July 10, 2023, 7:00 – In person
Redding Community Center Park & Recreation Multipurpose Room

Present: Tami O'Connor, Angela Caes, Jaymie Massaro, Lorcan O Connor, Patrick Schuchard, Will Rook, Peter Graziano, Mary Lou Carlson, Julia Pemberton, Peg O' Donnell

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Caes called the meeting to order at 7:04

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. O'Connor motioned to adopt the June Meeting Minutes. Ms. O'Connor seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were two members of the public present.

Ms. Peg O'Donnell advocated for the fundraising groups, such as the Georgetown Fire District, be allowed to have a space to share community news and campaigns at the Concert on the Green events.

LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

There were several letters of correspondence this month.

Mr. Schuchard noted residents were surprised on the afternoon of Jun 22, 2023 when there was cloudy weather and no staff on duty at Topstone Pond around 2PM in the afternoon. The gate was open and no signage / instructions were noted. The matter was passed to Mr. Blick for further investigation.

Mr. Schuchard also received a request for online access to the field usage schedule so the recent dilemma of "who's using this field" would be avoided in the future.

Ms. Caes received a note advocating for discussion of safe playground signage and etiquette for families with food related allergies. Example based discussions ensued between commission members. The Selectman advocated for this issue to be addressed in a more global manner. There was agreement to follow-up with the Health Department to understand precedence and policy.

A copy of the letter of correspondence from Peg O Donnell was distributed to all commission members present in person. **Ms. O'Connor motioned to add the topic of fundraising groups to the agenda under new business. Ms. Massaro seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.**

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Racquet Courts

- The pickleball social was an excellent success raising approximately \$2600
- New paddles and nets are on order as well as a tennis message board. The tennis backboard arrived and will be in place by August off court 4
- A final walk through of the Pickleball Courts was complete with each item verified on the punch list. There is an outstanding question regarding a lower bar for the fence. It was agreed there is a need for further review of a lower bar if it provides better long-term maintenance.

Topstone Park

- Successful summer stories and usage to date with small maintenance items and a punch list of opportunities in progress
- The working group plan to solicit feedback from lifeguards, camp counselors, and park users to gain a better sense of future opportunities
- There is a goal to complete a working RFP for work by the August meeting

Redding Community Center Walking Trail

- There is a draft RFP for the Engineering work to complete the bid documents of the pending walking trail.
- Julia Pemberton outlined the steps in the grant process and resources including the prior work with NRVT and Redding.
- There was consensus to seek expert opinions on the best surface for the walkway keeping in mind the requirements of the trail

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Blick was unable to attend the meeting so there were shortened notes regarding the **Director's Report**. Highlights include the need for a feedback loop after programs. Commission members asked for a post-camp / post-program survey.

To lessen calls for informational purposes and improve communications, the commission recommends greater use of social media, improved emails and exploring text options for emergency messages.

Mr. Schuchard elaborated on the plan to verify all organizations using Redding facilities as well as start a meeting with groups regarding Fall scheduling. He further recommended publication of the facilities usage calendar online.

There continues to be concerns about the transition to rec-trac on the year-anniversary of implementation.

DISCUSSION OF PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Park & Recreation Goals were never formally adopted but there is a working list to build upon from November 2023. We will seek to discuss potential goals in September or October agenda permitting.

Email Newsletter Usage continues to be of interest. The commission will seek to better understand how to grow the list and efficiently build the database. The commission wishes to retain the high open rates and use email for greater communications. One example is to announce when Concerts on the Green are canceled due to poor weather.

JULY FOCUS: Fall Brochure

Due to the absence of Mr. Blick, it was determined we could not have a productive discussion on the pending brochure. Mr. Rook offered praise for the opportunity to invite key department leaders to upcoming discussions.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Mr. Graziano to permit the three Redding Fire Districts to set up a table for the purposes of campaign promotion and distribution of information at one of the remaining Concerts on the Green. Motion was seconded by Ms. O Connor and passed unanimously.

Mr. Blick will work out the details with representatives from each of the fire districts to have a table at one of the Concerts on the Green.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Massaro with a second from Ms. Carlson
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.**

Submitted by Angela Caes - Co-Chair