



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES*
MARCH 14, 2022
VIRTUAL ONLY MEETING**

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call

a. Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairperson Jason Corbin

b. Roll Call

Members: Jason Corbin, Ian Kaiser, Michelle Low, Amy Forbes, Kay Moore, Jennifer Lewer and Larry Carlson

Alternate:

Absent: Amy Forbes and Bob Cruickshank

Others: Carole Aaron, Select Board Liaison

Guests: None

2. Review of the Minutes from the February 14, 2022 Meeting

a. Motion to approve by: Kay; Seconded by: Ian *Approved 6-0*

3. Old Business and Follow-Up Items:

a. Survey Results Presentation, Select Board Meeting and Next Steps (Committee)

Larry – Thanked Ilene Kanoff for all the work she has done in putting this together. Looks as though the presentation to the Select Board will be March 29th. Once we present to the Select Board, we will post the presentation as well as the actual survey itself to the P&R page on the Town website.

Ian commented that he found it fascinating that a lot of people just want a park to “hang out in”.

All: There was some general discussion about people using the parking lot and leaving their cars there. Some use it to park and ride bikes. This is an area that we may want to make sure that people parking there are not just

using it as a free place to park for the day. With people looking for more green space, additional parking may not be ideal. We could also ask if the police could drive by occasionally just to make sure people are using the existing parking properly.

Carole made a comment that she thought the age breakout was too complex and should consider simplifying it.

Jen pointed out that it is important to note that there is really no place in town for people to just gather. This would be great if we can make it that.

b. Status of Landscape Architect and Possible Grants (Michelle, Kay, and Larry)

Kay provided an update. At present, we have received 2 proposals. Did some comparisons, both well established, both referred to us, both members of American Society of Architects. Little differences – one is solely a landscape design company while the other is part of a full-service engineering company with a landscape division. One has come in at \$9,500 and one at \$7,500. Expects one more this week. Will send all out once the 3rd is received.

Ian wanted to know the next steps.

Larry hire the LA to provide a holistic view of what could be done and cost estimate. To even apply for the grant, the full amount needs to be presented to the voters. We will need to have information to Mandy by August 1st. to be on the ballot in November. Voters must approve the entire amount with the possibility of getting back 50% of it.

All: general discussion on the need to have a person that can apply for grants.

c. Update on Bonaire (Michelle)

Michelle provided an update. Mains stage, which she is focusing on with Brian (Crawford from the Playhouse), is coming together, Subby is going to be providing Sand Drawing lessons from 12-3pm and will be putting up an Eventbrite for registration. Also has been speaking with Brigid (Rankowski) about some activities at OVS. Waiting for a price sheet as there are a

number of activities that she now offers. Still looking for volunteers. Brigid is willing to be a point person at OVS, but we do need more.

There is another meeting at the end of this month and hopefully will have more at our next meeting.

Shore Rd at Main St will be closed; Main Beach parking lot will be closed at 4pm as we will be having fireworks that night.

d. Cultural and Recreation Director Position Communication - (Ian)

Ian we all want this position. Has spoken to a number of people. Not sure if this will pass as many people did not know about it. We need support as value outweighs the cost. People that do not want it may be just looking at numbers. Cannot send a letter to the community via mail as we cannot promote this using taxpayer money. We can publicize the value of it elsewhere.

Jason shared that he has been on Parks & Rec for 5 years and this role is far more than a volunteer position. He is concerned that the programs that we have worked hard to set up will not happen. Asked a general question as to who would want to take on the Sand Castle contest next year – there were no takers.

Carole suggested that Jason write a letter to the other Committee Chairs and outline the benefits of such a position as it seems like other Committees were not aware of the

Ian will write the letter, have Jason look it over and get it out. Wants to be proactive and get the word out.

Jen would we consider a part time director if this does not pass? Jason responded that it has been presented to the voters as a full-time position.

Larry may regret saying this but if this does not pass, he most likely will resign from the Committee. If all 7 of us put in so much time and effort and the community does not recognize what we do as volunteers, he is spending way too much time as a volunteer for this town than he wants to. He recognized that Jason and Michelle are done in June.

Jen agreed...we need help and respect for what we are doing. Made it clear that she does not want to see these things go away as people really enjoy them. There is so much we can do!

e. Possible grants for landscape architect (Ian)

Ian went over several grants he has been doing research on like the Maine Community Foundation and Community Development Grant.

f. Update on USTA Program and Tennis Backboard (Kay)

Kay Tennis in the Park has been approved. Grades 1-4 this summer and grades 5&6 this fall. Will be in Wells due to number of students who live in Wells. Our courts could be used as an alternate site if need be. Register online through Wells Parks & Rec. Cost will be \$65 but space is limited – 8 students per class.

g. Update on Yoga in the Park (Larry)

Larry proposed Tuesday and Thursdays from 7-8am in the Common. Has reached out to Sonny Perkins at Heritage Museum Committee and will reach out to Tom Torno to coordinate when lawn maintenance will be done. \$10 donation to Parks & Rec.

h. Tennis Updates: backboard and court cracks (Kay)

Kay has reached out to Matt and Tom. Looking to have backboard done by May 1st.

i. Ogunquit Music Branding Update (Ian)

Ian Michael has put information together. Working on some branding.

Jason thanked this year's sponsors – Anne Erwin Sotheby's and Kennebunk Savings Bank

4. New Business and New Ideas

a. Mailing to promote the Cultural and Recreation Director position (Ian)

Discussed under 3d above

b. Discussion if the Cultural and Recreation Director position does not get approved (Ian)

Discussed under 3d above

5. E-Mail Correspondence Since Last Meeting (Larry)

Larry: received a few who were interesting in being volunteers. Dogs at Agamenticus, Craft Show. May be of interest – Maine Health and tobacco information. List of potential signs. Will send out the e-mails she sent

6. Public Comment*

Peter Kahn – commented that the Committee has done great things. Not sure why we were not asked to present to the Budget Review Committee as we always have in the past. Things he is hearing now were never brought up to Budget Review. He would personally be in favor of a part time director. Did not see where it was properly presented. Willing to be a volunteer.

7. Other Business

Jason asked for volunteers

Michelle Splash into Spring will be approaching when we have our next meeting

8. Follow-Ups Items

- Send a letter to the Chairs of Committees who would fall under the potential Cultural and Recreation Director requesting support for this position (Jason/Ian)
- Tennis Backboard Update (Kay)
- Yoga in the Park Finalization (Larry)
- Send tobacco education information to Committee as well as Matt

9. Next meeting

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be the 2nd Monday of April (11th) @ 12 noon.

Meeting to adjourn made by Ian and seconded by Larry. Adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Carlson, Committee Member

****Please note that every effort is made to capture the essence of the meeting in these Minutes; however, they are not an exact replication of all items discussed or comments made. If you would like an actual replay of the meeting, please click on the link below which should allow you to watch the entire March 14, 2022, meeting on Town Hall Streams (Duration:1:48:01).***

https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=40&id=44167