

Columbia Recreation Commission
April 4th, 2019
6:00 PM
Recreation Department Office
323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237

Attendees: Kelly DeForest, Steve Piro, Brian Pederson, Marc Volza, Cindy Postemski

Call to Order 6:17 PM

Motion to approve 2/7/19 minutes; approved unanimously

- Audience of Citizens-none present

Old Business

- Master Plan Update-by Marc Volza
 - Company hired to work on softball field (Liberty) is currently working at Rec park. Goal if weather cooperates is completion by end of summer 2019. Field will not be useable; will need to sod etc.
 - Rec Park Sign due to be placed. "Call Before You Dig" being consulted prior to post insertion. Discussion surrounding landscaping along rock wall. Discussion around seeking town volunteers for plants, bulbs; Astrid Bellanger discussed as a possible resource in town for flowers/layout ideas.
 - Road Update: Drainage issues have been discussed ongoing; agreement that additional drainage needed. Cost is remaining low by utilizing talents of Town Works Dept. Town Works focusing on Town related Spring projects (road cleaning etc) so drainage timeline/road on hold until Fall per Public Works schedule as reported by Mr Volza.
 - Stone dust trail on hold sec to cannot be done until road done.
 - 4 Pavilion quotes obtained. Construction on Pavilion on hold per BOS awaiting cost of road/drainage; road drainage not moving forward due to Town Works schedule.
 - Quotes for tennis courts/pickle ball court/basketball resurfacing in progress. Rec met with a company yesterday and has another mtg with a company scheduled. Projects not currently started per Town.

New Business

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Rec Director's Report

- Family fun night at HW Porter was very successful
- Half Day hangouts going well
- April Vacation Kid Camp coming up; still taking enrollees

- B-ball Tourney was a success; Hot Shots competition less attended than previous years
- 5/29 Bruce John concert on the green
- 6/21 Jim Blair concert at Columbia Lake
- 6/22 Family Fun Night Rec Park 1-4pm
- Swim Lessons
- Beach opens Memorial Day Weekend weekends only; then regular schedule starts when HW Porter gets out
- New standardized beach hours 10:30a-6:30p
- Lifeguard applications being taken now at Rec Dept

Open Discussion

- Discussion that Rec related projects slotted for this year were asked to utilize Town Works to keep costs down. Town has not moved forward with projects for various reasons; now town potentially cutting money slotted for Rec improvements based on fact that projects have not started/money has not been spent. Discussion surrounding frustration that projects have not been allowed to move forward due to delays on part of the town and now funding may be cut based on the fact that money wasn't spent. Members of rec committee unanimously voiced desire for town/FIPAC /town residents to be aware of rationale behind money slotted for this fiscal year not being spent yet. Also noted that Rec asked to conduct survey of residents to assess where priority focus for Rec improvement projects was completed and priorities are not being addressed despite survey completion. (ie basketball court is survey priority for town residents). Brian Pederson to contact Town Manager to discuss next steps surrounding communication between BOS and Rec commission in regard to upcoming budget hearings.
- Steve Piro shared footage of a basketball court (indoor) with elevated track overlooking the courts as an example of an idea that could generate income for the town. Exercise in the winter; AAU tournaments (basketball/volleyball) etc.

Adjournment

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Respectfully submitted,

Kelly DeForest