

Columbia Recreation Commission
January 2nd, 6:00 PM
Rec. Office
323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237

Attendees: Jeff Buskey, Kelly DeForest, Steve Piro, Cindy Postemski, Tony Tigeleiro, Marc Volza

Call to Order 1806

- Audience of Citizens
None present

Old Business

- Approval of Minutes

Correction: add Jeff Buskey as present at November 17th 2019 meeting

Motion to approve by Jeff Buskey; Kelly DeForest seconds. Minutes approved with aforementioned correction.

- Master Plan Update

Softball Field-nearing completion; readiness for Spring is dependent upon weather. "Old" softball field is to remain as is until known if needed for Spring 2020 Season. Once the new field is functional, the "old" field to be converted to side by side soccer fields per prior plans.

Road- public works has been working on the road since early December due to mild weather allowing work to continue

New Business

- Master Plan 2020 Budget Items

Reviewed line items as provided by Marc Volza

-Questions about line item price breakdowns asked by Kelly DeForest. Request for transparency and more information to explain to laypeople within the town who may inquire about how prices are arrived at for estimate prior to budget planning. Example used was the 55k estimate for playscapes and request for additional breakdown of that cost by Kelly DeForest. Marc Volza shared that the slide alone is approximately 10k using the existing playscape company due to request by a member of HW Porter PTO for a cochlear implant friendly slide. Similar slides (not cochlear implant friendly) are approximately 3.5K per Marc Volza.

-Due to the large price difference between the two slides, Kelly DeForest requested that more information be obtained re: number of children that would benefit from such a slide, as well as are there cochlear implant friendly slides in Eastern CT currently and if so where/how far away are they located?

-Steve Piro asked if we knew what effect(s) a child with cochlear implants would have if they used a non-cochlear implant friendly slide? Are the effects prohibitory for a child with implants? Marc Volza to investigate the questions voiced to better inform the committee prior to including a cochlear implant friendly slide in the estimate.

-Concerns over metal or "roller" slides causing issues with catching skin, clothing and heat concerns were voiced by Kelly DeForest and echoed by Steve Piro, Tony Tigeleiro and Jeff Buskey.

- Marc Volza to request additional information about metal vs plastic slides.
- Review of bocce court plan due to need to remove existing "jungle gym" and swings from lower aspect of Rec park adjacent to existing volleyball courts per town insurer. Cindy Postemski inquired about drainage and upkeep of volleyball courts. Kelly DeForest asked if bocce ball sets would be "bring your own" or provided. Marc Volza reviewed that potential options include "bring your own" or a possible set up/deposit service for pre-booked events/pavilion rentals.
- Steve Piro discussed town or community involvement/leveraging of talent within the town when able for Rec Park related projects
- Motion to skip to agenda item Election of Officers due to member of committee needing to leave the meeting early was made
- Tony Tigeleiro makes motion to skip to Election item; Cindy Postemski seconds
- Steve Piro nominates Jeff Buskey as Chair of Rec Commission
- Kelly DeForest seconds; no nays
- Steve Piro left meeting after nomination
- Town Budget Meeting schedule
 - Reviewed; 4/22/20 and 5/12/20 highlighted as future meetings where budget to be reviewed
- Election of Officers
 - See above; Jeff Buskey named as chair

Rec Director's Report

- Program Updates
 - Basketball going well
 - Increase in HS Basketball players this year
 - 1/26/20 Cupcake Challenge
 - After school program progressing nicely without concerns

Open Discussion

Further discussion by committee members about community involvement at Rec park and how leveraging of talents within the town to assist (where able) at the Park for projects, improvements would be beneficial. Concerns over liability and limiting liability discussed and historical prospective offered by Cindy Postemski. Marc Volza explained the bid process and reviewed estimation for budget process vs actual open to bid at request of Kelly DeForest. Request to consider use of Trek material and possible community involvement or local builders to assist with picnic table assembly or construction discussed by Tony Tigeleiro

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn and meeting adjourned at 1843

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly DeForest