

AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

35 Bligh Street ♦ Ayer, MA 01432
978-796-5915 ♦ parks@ayer.ma.us



Minutes of June 15th, 2023 - Ayer Parks Commission

Location: 35 Bligh Street, Ayer MA

Members Present: Chris Tavares, Chairman, Jason Mayo, Kevin Malantic

Also Present: Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director, Sarah Ernst, Matt Blood, Gabrielle Holland, and Claire Hefti

Absent: Sarah Gibbons and Gerry Amenta

At 7:00 PM Mr. Mayo made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Malantic seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Public Input

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Mayo motioned to approve May's meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Malantic seconded. (3-0-0)

Projects

Playground

Mr. Thomas reported that Beta has been working on the RFP for the project and is nearly ready to go but it hasn't been out to bid yet which has been frustrating. We had been requested by the Disabilities Commission to provide a list of ADA approved equipment that will be used in the playground and will be forwarding that once it has been compiled by BETA. Mr. Mayo mentioned that the Disabilities Commission seemed to have a different view of the meeting both commissions had together about the playground.

Irrigation

Mr. Thomas reported that with the playground remediation some of the irrigation lines got broken, but it is now back up and running. Some of the money from the playground funds was used to fix the irrigation system.

Volleyball Pole

Mr. Thomas reported that the PVC broke from the volleyball pole at the beach, and there is a temporary fix at the moment to keep the pole secure. The goal is to reach out to the DPW in the fall to backhoe some of the sand out to then fix the pole completely.

Field Rehab

Mr. Thomas reported that his staff has been working on Field 1 and 2 and that they are in good shape for the remainder of games to be played there through the summer. There has been a lot of rain this season, but it was good that there was no baseball on it for a week and that allowed us to get a lot of handwork done on the field. Field 5 will be next to get some work done on it.

Beach House Study

Mr. Thomas reported that the study has been approved for \$30,000 and the study will give some options of whether to keep the current building and strip the inside down or build a brand-new building. This project does not have to go out to bid and Weston and Sampson will be hired to do the study.

Beach

Mr. Blood informed the commission that there would be treatment on the pond on Monday and the beach would be closed for it and there will be no issues opening on the pond the next day. The pond will be open full-time starting on Saturday. Mr. Blood also reported that the Fire Department plans on coming in the first week of July for training and that all lifeguards will be part of the training and would like to make it an annual training. ACP begins on June 24th every Tuesday and Thursday until the middle of August. The staff for the pond is a total of 11 guards, 5 of which are new and all getting certified this week and has 1 on call guard as needed.

Camps

Ms. Ernst reported to the commission that every camp is still getting registrations, and the numbers are looking very good for all camps, though more are expected this week on the runup to the baseball and softball clinics. Mini-ball and Mini-soccer have already had to close registrations due to space limitations. Mr. Thomas also reported that he has been working with Mr. Kendall to see if the middle school gym would be available for our basketball camp weeks. The only conflict is that Summer in Shirley has the gym reserved. We will be working with Mr. Kendall and Summer in Shirley to see if we can share the space if possible.

Scoreboard

Mr. Thomas reported that the scoreboard is officially installed and put back up, and the electrician will be coming in to hook everything up by the end of the week.

Incidents

Nothing to report.

Facility Requests

Mr. Thomas presented the following requests for the use of Pirone Park.

Fab 5 – Ms. Holland and Ms. Hefti introduced their non-profit organization, Fab Five. The Fab Five goal is to put together fundraising efforts to support local organizations in need. Ms. Holland and Ms. Hefti talked to the commission about facilities request that they want have at the park. They would like to have a country fair from 8/25-8/27 from 3pm-9pm with the use of Field 6 and the concession stand at no charge. Mr. Malantic motioned to accept. Mr. Mayo seconded. (3-0-0)

Adult Volleyball – Would like to play volleyball at Sandy Pond every Wednesday night from 6pm-8pm from 6/21 to 8/30 at no charge. Mr. Malantic motioned to accept. Mr. Mayo seconded. (2-0-1)

Central Mass Travel – Would like to play games/practice on basketball court 1 with practices on Sundays and games on Thursdays at no charge. Mr. Mayo motioned to accept. Mr. Malantic seconded (2-0-1)

Pack 32 Ayer – Would like to host a scouting event at Sandy Pond with 2 picnic tables from 6-7:30pm on July 19th at no charge. Mr. Malantic motioned to accept with the swimming amended to only an hour. Mr. Mayo seconded. (3-0-0)

Pack 32 Ayer – Would like to host a scouting event at the fire pit area of Pirone Park on August 17th from 6-7:30pm at no charge. Mr. Mayo motioned to accept. Mr. Malantic seconded (3-0-0)

4th of July Committee – Would like to extend their previous request to include Thursday night as well for setup. Mr. Mayo motioned to accept at no charge. Mr. Malantic seconded (3-0-0)

Joe Ward – Would like to play volleyball on Tuesday nights at Sandy Pond from June 20th to September. Mr. Mayo motioned to accept at no charge. Mr. Malantic seconded. (3-0-0)

Volleyball

Mr. Tavares shared with the commission that volleyball finished their season a week early on May 31st because of Page Hilltop events. Overall, the season went very well, consistently always having 17-22 children at each session.

Soccer

Mr. Thomas informed the commission that the season will be finishing up on Saturday, weather pending for AYS. ASYB had their end of year outing tonight.

Basketball

Nothing to report.

Next Meeting

July 20th, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Parks Office on 35 Bligh Street.

Adjourn

At 8:08 PM Mr. Mayo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Malantic seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)