



AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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Minutes of November 14th, 2023 - Ayer Parks Commission

Location: Parks Office 35 Bligh Street, Ayer MA

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

Absent: Sarah Gibbons

Also Present: Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director, Sarah Ernst

At 7:03 PM Mr. Mayo made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Malantic seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (4-0-0)

Public Input

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Amenta motioned to accept October's meeting minutes. Mr. Malantic seconded. (4-0-0)

Projects

Field 1 Rehab

Mr. Thomas shared pictures with the commission of the before and after of the field project. The commission thought that the project came out nicely.

Playground

Mr. Thomas reported that he had a meeting with Dan, Randy, and a representative from Cella Construction. With the equipment not being able to get here until March and how cold it has already gotten; the project will most likely start in March when the weather warms up. Since baseball and softball start in the spring, the contractors are responsible for closing the area each day after work for safety reasons since the fields are being used most evenings. Most of the work on the playground will happen during weekday hours. Mr. Thomas also shared a diagram of a potential layout of the nature play area of the playground that they would like to start working on in December.

Volleyball Pole Repair

Mr. Thomas shared that he and his team are working on this project this week and some of the next depending on how it is going.

Beach House Remediation

The commission agreed to pass on looking at options for the construction of beach house for now.

End of the Season

Mr. Thomas shared with the commission that bathrooms and the beach house have been winterized and his team has been working on leaf clean up. The leaf sucker needs to be fixed which has put a damper on the number of leaves that can be picked up, but they are getting it done.

Finance

Capital Planning

The commission agreed that the priority for this year was to get a utility vehicle and the beach house will be next year's project.

FY25 Budget

Mr. Thomas mentioned that he would like a commissioner to work on the budget with him for the next year.

Mr. Amenta nominated Mr. Mayo to work on the budget with the Parks Director. Mr. Malantic seconded (4-0-0).

Incidents

Mr. Thomas shared an email with the commission from the Community Restorative Justice, a group that helps young offenders to clean their record clean by doing community service and taking responsibilities for their actions by working with their local police and the District Attorney's office. This is for the young adult that created ruts with his vehicle on Field 6 a few months back. The commission then discussed options for what this young adult can do for the park.

Mr. Mayo motioned to accept #2301-466-OF/ C4RJ Case 549 with the stipulation that the \$200 restitution and community service determined by the Parks Director. Mr. Amenta seconded (4-0-0).

Facility Requests

The 4th of July committee would like to use the whole park for the 4th of July events on the weekend of June 21st-24th.

Mr. Mayo motioned to accept the request for those dates June 21st – 24th at no cost. Mr. Malantic seconded (4-0-0).

Snowmen & Trees

Mr. Thomas shared that the snowmen and trees are ready to go there were about 20-25 left from last year. Communication will go out next week to the public.

Volleyball

Mr. Tavares reported that the last session of volleyball was on October 30th, and they had a kids vs parents' game which got everyone involved and it was very enjoyable. They would like to have a session in the spring as well.

Soccer

AYS

Mr. Amenta shared that the program only had one rain out the whole season, which is impressive based on how much rain we received during the weekends of the season. Glow soccer night was a big hit and overall, the season went very well. There was great communication and the program got new nets that are more durable. One suggestion that Mr. Amenta had was to work with Shirley in the Spring for the U8 level to incorporate more games and even more U8 girl's teams.

Basketball

AYB

Mr. Thomas shared that registration has been very busy and the numbers are looking good at each level, the only level that is lacking numbers is boy's 3rd and 4th grade. Hoping to get more numbers in that level before the first session. Mr. Thomas also shared that Unlimited would be moving to Sundays at Page Hilltop because of the limited gym space.

ASYB

Mr. Tavares shared that with everything going on, numbers are close to last year, which is great considering that there was concern the season might need to be forfeited due to lack of gym space. Teams were made on Saturday, and with some late sign ups teams may need to be adjusted slightly. They are still working on getting each team to have 3 preseason practices before the season since it is unknown if there will be any time for practices during the season. There have been some conflicts over gym space at the middle school, and ASYB is trying to work all of that out with Shirley Rec to benefit both town programs.

Next Meeting

December 12th, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Parks Office.

Adjourn

At 8:19 PM Mr. Mayo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Amenta seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (4-0-0)

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