



AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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



Minutes of December 12th, 2023 - Ayer Parks Commission

Location: Zoom Meeting

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

Absent: Sarah Gibbons

Also Present: Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director

At 7:15 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 November's meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Mayo seconded. (4-0-0)

Projects

Playground

Mr. Thomas shared with the commission that there is a holding pattern now, still waiting for an update of when the equipment will be arriving, still have the tentative date of March. The nature area of the playground has started working with Brad Spinney and commissioners Mr. Mayo and Mr. Tavares. We have also hired a contractor, Bill Seikman, to be in an advisory role and do some of the work for us. Framework will happen the week in between Christmas and New Years, depending on how the weather holds up.

Volleyball Pole Repair

Mr. Thomas reported that he and his team were able to complete this project and get the pole cemented into a container and back into the ground. The pole seems to be secure but will test it out in the spring again before the pond opens.

End of the Season

Mr. Thomas reported that work has been going well except for the leaf sucker, due to it being over 20 years old and having issues mulching leaves up very well. All the fields are in good shape and pretty much done.

Holiday Decorations

Mr. Thomas reported that there are over 50 cutouts put up over the park on the walkways and is looking very festive. The turnout has been great and were hoping to get about 10 more back to put out as well.

Finance

FY25 Budget

Mr. Thomas reported that the deadline for the budget is the end of December. The biggest thing to think about towards the end of planning is the new position that the Parks would like to have, an Assistant Park Director. That position and raises are not in the budget just yet, as details need to be worked out with the Town Manager's office. We have adjusted the supplies budget by taking some of the money towards utilities and services, ending with a level budget from FY2024. One important note that Mr. Thomas made was that Ayer Shirley Football and Little Leagues are not Park Department budget lines, those are privately run organizations that the Park doesn't budget.

Capital Planning

Mr. Thomas reminded the group that this will be talked about over the next few months, there was a Capital planning meeting on Thursday. Since the Parks Department is only requesting one item on the lower end of costs there may not be a need to attend that meeting or other ones prior to the Town Meeting.

Incidents

Mr. Thomas reported that he has a meeting with the juvenile that did donuts on Field 6 tomorrow with the restorative justice group to go over what was discussed at the previous meeting, He will report back to the commission about that meeting.

Mr. Tavares also reported that being the gym monitor for games on Saturday, he has noticed that kids that are around the gym and not in the game get access to balls when they shouldn't. As a result, a ball ended up on the court during a game with a kid going after it. Mr. Tavares wrote a new policy that mentioned that anyone not apart of the game that is going on can have access to balls at which the ASYB approved. There will be warnings given out, but after a few warnings a consequence will be given out to the person that is using a basketball.

Facility Requests

None to report.

Basketball

AYB

Mr. Tavares brought up that at the 3rd and 4th grade level, there were some minor issues combining with Shirley Youth Basketball for scrimmages. Mr. Thomas went into more detail that with Shirley Rec just starting their program there has been some minor issues about rules of scrimmages and how to go about everything because of the limitations of using the Page Hilltop gym versus being able to use the middle school or high school gym as has been done in the past. There isn't enough time or space to run the program as we have in the past. The good thing is that they will be running a clinic for both girls and boys this week, allowing both programs to play together. This also allows both programs to get all the coaches together and get on the same page moving forward to make the rest of the season run more smoothly.

ASYB

Mr. Tavares reports that the season is under way. The program is two weeks in and going as expected. Rec night is tomorrow at the girls' varsity basketball game at 5pm. Mr. Tavares mentioned he has been working closely with the girls' varsity head coach on making this happen and understanding that it would be nice to have more of a presence from the varsity program in the rec levels helping. Rec players get free admissions to the game while wearing their jersey and bringing canned goods for loaves and fishes, same with their parents. The kids will be part of warmups during lineups. As of now it is a solid

partnership with the girl's side of the program, and there is a desire to have a similar partnership with the boy's side. Mr. Tavares also mentioned that this is most likely going to be his last year as Chair of the basketball program, he would like to do a bridge year to help the next person with running the program.

Next Meeting

January 18th, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Parks Office.

Adjourn

At 8:00 PM Mr. Amenta made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mayo seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (4-0-0)

RECEIVED
APR 24 2024
TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK

Scopeland