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AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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Minutes of May 18, 2023 - Ayer Parks Commission

Location: 35 Bligh Street, Ayer MA

Members Present: Jason Mayo, Chairman, Chris Tavares, Kevin Malantic, Gerry Amenta arrived at 7:06am

Also Present: Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director, Sarah Ernst, Dennis Currin, Matt Blood

Absent: Sarah Gibbons

At 7:01 PM Mr. Malantic made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Tavares seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Public Input

Board Elections/Assignments

The board decided to reorganize for the following year 2023-2024:

Chairman: Mr. Tavares (4-0-0)

Vice Chair: Mr. Amenta (4-0-0)

Clerk: Mr. Malantic (4-0-0)

CPAC Rep: Mr. Mayo (4-0-0)

Community Building: Mr. Malantic (4-0-0)

AYB Chairman: Mr. Tavares (4-0-0)

ASYB: Mr. Robert Weeks & Mr. Jason Leone (4-0-0)

AYS Chairman: Mr. Amenta

ASYS: pending.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Malantic motioned to approve April's meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Mayo seconded. (4-0-0)

Projects

Recreation Center

Mr. Currin wanted to notify the board that there have been members of the community that want to view the meeting minutes that are not currently on the website. Going forward, with the help of the new Parks administrator those will be getting posted. Mr. Currin informed the board that the council of aging committee has been reaching out to seniors within the community about what their intended purposes of having the recreation center would be. Mr. Mayo address the concern that the building committee needs to address all stakeholders that would use the facility and to create public forums where people in the community can ask questions, and not have it come through the Parks Department, since it is not

the Parks' project. Mr. Currin informed the board that the building committee was officially appointed on Tuesday, May 16th but has not had an official meeting yet.

Playground Rehab

Mr. Thomas gave an update that he went over to the playground site with a member of the disability committee. The goal is to limit the port and place areas to keep the cost down. By doing so, the layout has changed slightly with the goal of trying to save the trees and being more environmentally friendly. The overall footprint of the playground looks bigger because the blueprint expands the playground to be widened. Mr. Thomas also informed the board that he is still waiting to hear back regarding the timeline that this is going to take to get started.

Town Meeting

Mr. Thomas informed the board that everything went through that we asked for on the warrants.

H.S. Gym

Ms. Ernst informed the commission that the HS gym is no longer in use again. During April vacation the school got an email from the insurance company that they found more structural damage. Currently there is no timeline on when it will be fixed, it is currently in the bid.

Beach

Mr. Thomas informed the board that the beach will be opening the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. The dock was being put into the pond on Sunday, May 21st. The beach will be ready to go and is looking good with all the mowing and mulching that the maintenance workers have been doing. One thing that was noted, and Mr. Thomas asked the board for, was a new fridge that has a small freezer on the top. The cost for a new fridge would be between \$600-\$700.

Mr. Mayo made a motion to purchase a new fridge for the beach with a limit of no more than \$800. Mr. Malantic seconded the motion. (4-0-0)

Mr. Blood also gave an update on lifeguards, that the beach has enough staff to open for the weekends but is looking to increase the staff when the beach opens on weekdays. The beach will go to full time hours on June 17th. The goal number that Mr. Blood wants to have for lifeguards is about 10 guards, now the staff is about 6-7 guards. They are also still looking for a junior lifeguard but have not found a candidate yet. Mr. Blood informed the board that there they are offering a new swimming lesson for Pre-K age children. Before it was Mommy/Daddy & Me and swim lessons for ages 6 and up, now we are offering classes for ages 3-5 years old to get children afraid of the water at a younger age. As discussed in a previous meeting, the board wanted to change registration for ACP swim lessons, unfortunately that could not happen this year, hoping to change it for next year. One change that is being enforced is having participants be registered 1 week prior to the lessons starting, making it easier for the guards to prepare for the lessons.

Camps

Mr. Thomas informed the board that camps are filling up and confirmations have been sent out to registered participants. The only camps that have not received email confirmation is baseball and softball because of low registrations.

Scoreboard

Mr. Thomas informed the board that the scoreboard would be fixed during the week after Memorial Day weekend. The invoice for the project is around \$2,850 and Mr. Thomas was informed that the permit was also being waived for the scoreboard as well.

Incidents

There were no incidents to report.

Facility Request

Mr. Thomas presented 2 requests for the use of Pirone Park.

ACP to come to the beach every Tuesday and Thursday from June 27th to August 17th from 12pm-3pm. Mr. Malantic motioned to approve this request. Mr. Mayo seconded. (4-0-0)

Ayer Community School: June 7th in the grassy area by the concession stand from 9am-11am. Mr. Mayo approved the request with no charge. Mr. Malantic seconded. (4-0-0)

Soccer

Mr. Amenta shared with the board that the feedback has been excellent from parents. Each team was also given new equipment that has been very beneficial, and communication has been great using the app Mojo.

Basketball

Mr. Tavares informed the board that the chair reverts to Ayer on July 1st from Shirley.

Next Meeting

June 15th, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Parks Office on 35 Bligh Street.

Adjourn

At 8:39 PM Mr. Mayo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Malantic seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (4-0-0)