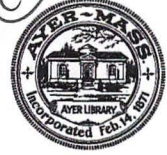


# AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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## Minutes of April 13, 2023 - Ayer Parks Commission

Location: 35 Bligh Street, Ayer MA

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

**Also Present:** Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director, Rusty Anderson, Dave Cibor, Brenda Boisseau, Mindy Titus, Sarah Ernst

**Absent:** Sarah Gibbons, Gerry Amenta

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

### Projects

#### **Recreation Center**

Mr. Thomas reported that the zoom meeting about the community center went along with a lot of questions and concerns. The Parks Commission's current position on the project is that it is still in its exploratory stages, and it is not specifically a Park Department project.

#### **Playground Rehab**

The Parks Commissions welcomed in members of the Ayer Disability Committee for introductions and to get input of the layout of the new playground. Mr. Thomas gave a summary of what has already been discussed and brought up materials that would be used for paths and walkways in the new playground. Pour-in-place is one of those materials that is very expensive and has brought up environmental concerns. A potential compromise would be to use the pour-in-place in certain sections of the playground and in other spots have asphalt and woodchips to make it less expensive. A concern that Mrs. Boisseau has is that the playground will have 2 different ranges of children using it, age groups of 2-5-year-olds and 5-12-year-olds that will want to play with another, but some sections may not be safely equipped for the younger age group to play on. She suggests finding equipment that both age groups can use together. Another suggestion was brought up by Mr. Anderson who thought having a place to safely park wheelchairs would be a very inclusive idea. Mr. Mayo told the group that they would really like to have a member or two of the disability committee to be a part of the finalizing of the plans to the new playground and to sign off on it at the end of the project. The commission agreed that woodchips would be difficult to manage in the new playground.

#### **ASMS Fields**

Mr. Thomas informed the commission that the athletic director of the high school had requested help from the Parks Department to get the middle school fields playable in Shirley. The Parks Department fulfilled the request since it is within the obligation to help the high school for the Parks Department to be able to use the high school facilities. The question that remains is who technically owns those fields, and if that can be found out it would determine who needs to keep those fields maintained.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Malantic motioned to accept the edits of the meeting minutes for March's meeting. Tavares seconded. (3-0-0)**

**Mr. Malantic accepted the meeting minutes for February's meeting. Tavares seconded. (3-0-0)**

#### **Town Meeting**

Town Meeting is on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mayo and Mr. Tavares both mentioned that they will be at the meeting. Mr. Thomas informed the commission that there are 4 articles under the warrant that the park is apart of. Those articles are 3, 10, 13 and 28. For the article discussing funding for the beach study, Mr. Mayo suggested to Mr. Thomas to take photos of the beach building to prepare a visual for the meeting.

#### **H.S. Gym**

Ms. Ernst informed the commission that the HS gym is back-up and running.

#### **Beach**

Mr. Thomas informed the commission that he met with Matt Blood, the waterfront supervisor, and created a timeline for what needs to happen this spring to get the beach up and running. There is a goal of May 1<sup>st</sup> for having registration for swimming lessons available. Mr. Thomas shared those unlike years past there is an abundance of qualified instructors, with three WSI certified. The certified instructors would make \$23 per hour, and those assisting would be paid their regular wage for swim lessons. One thing that was noted was that ACP lessons are usually somewhat difficult to plan and work out. To solve these issues Mr. Mayo suggested putting our swim lesson application a part of ACP registration and getting a check from ACP for our swim lesson applicants afterwards. The last note made by Mr. Thomas was that the beach has lost a few guards from last year, but potentially has about 3 new hires for this summer.

#### **Camps**

Mr. Thomas informed the commission that all eight of the summer camps offered this summer received enrollment and that camps are in good shape moving forward.

#### **Scoreboard**

Mr. Thomas shared the email chain between him and a contractor about how much it would be to re-erect the Field 2 scoreboard. The project would take anywhere from \$2,000 to \$3,500 to put back up. After some deliberation, the commission agreed to pay for the scoreboard instead of requesting the AYSB organization do so. Due to this being municipal work that requires following certain regulations and protocols, it would be best to continue the pursuit that the Parks Director had already been taking. This route will allow the work to be done relatively quickly at a lower cost and allow use before the season is out.

**Mr. Malantic motioned the scoreboard to be fixed with a budget of no more than \$3500. Mr. Tavares seconded. (3-0-0)**

### **Incidents**

There were no incidents to report.

### **Facility Request**

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

**Crossover Ceremony: On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Cub Scouts of Pack 31 from 12pm-4pm. Mr. Malantic motioned to accept this request at no charge. Mr. Tavares seconded (3-0-0).**

**Crossover Ceremony: On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Cub Scouts of Pack 31 from 3pm-5:30pm. Mr. Malantic motioned to accept this request at no charge with a later start date after 4:30pm. Mr. Tavares seconded. (3-0-0).**

### **Spring Programs**

#### **Volleyball**

Mr. Tavares reported to the group that they needed to close registrations because they have about 18-20 children going each week and it was hard to only have one net going in the Page Hilltop gym. With the high school gym reopening, they have 2 nets going and the program was running more smoothly.

#### **Gaga Ball**

Mr. Malantic brought up the issue of parking at the beach for gaga ball as the program is starting to gain more interest. The commission agreed that parking is an issue and that there truly is no perfect time to have gaga ball running that does not coincide with swimming crowds at Sandy Pond Beach. Mr. Mayo suggested moving the gaga ball program to the park and putting the pit by the batting cages.

### **Soccer**

Mr. Thomas reported to the commission that soccer registrations have been strong and that Gerry Amenta and James Bresnahan are overseeing the AYS program. They have reported that coaches and teams have already been determined, and parents have been contacted to inform them what team their child is on. Equipment and uniforms have been coming in and are sorted out.

### **Basketball**

Mr. Tavares reported that the closed-out meeting for ASYB went well. The only thing left to do is inventory the remaining jerseys and see what needs to be ordered for next year.

### **Next Meeting**

May 18th, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Parks Office on 35 Bligh Street.

### **Adjourn**

**At 8:21 PM Mr. Malantic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tavares seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)**