DEPT/BOARD: Recreation Commission Meeting

DATE: April 8, 2019

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Burlington High School – School Committee Room

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Call Recreation Commission Meeting to Order

Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2019

Public Participation

Director of Parks & Recreation Report

Parks Superintendent Report

Programming Report

Chairman’s Report

Subcommittee Report

New Business:
Re-organization Commission

Old Business

Executive Session

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 22, 2019
Commissioners in Attendance:
Vice Chair Kevin Sullivan
Commissioner Kevin Sheehan, Commissioner Paul Raymond, Commissioner David Norden

Staff in Attendance:
Director Brendan Egan, Interim Park Superintendent Bill Baker, Program Coordinator Kelly Lehman

Absent: Tom Murphy

Vice Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Committee Room 121 of Burlington High School at 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA.

Vice Chair Sullivan welcomed Kevin Sheehan to the Commission and recognized former Chair Kristine Brown for her 15 years of service.

Minutes:

Approval of Minutes:
Commissioner Sullivan called for a motion to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for March 25, 2019 as printed. Commissioner Raymond seconded the motion.

VOTE 3-0-1 (Commissioner Sheehan abstained)

Public Participation:
No public participation.

Director of Parks & Recreation Report:
Director Egan presented the following report:

DPW / Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility:
Parks & Recreation and DPW met to discuss the Maintenance Facility and to get a project update. After meeting with the architects, all of the estimates are within about a 1% difference. Bidding both phases would save approximately $1 million and would also ensure the HVAC, Fire, and Plumbing systems would be similar. The Committee voted to proceed to submit a request for the funds together at Town Meeting. They will be going before Ways and Means this Wednesday, April 10th at 7pm. Director Egan asked the Recreation Commission for their presence and support at the meeting. Once a meeting date is scheduled with the Planning Board and Conservation, Director Egan will update the Commission.

Dog Park – Capital Improvements:
Director Egan provided a summary for newly commissioned Kevin Sheehan. In June, after one year of being open the Burlington Dog Park at Rahanis Park dog park will be eligible for approximately $8000
Capital Improvements through the Stanton Foundation. Current Capital Improvement considerations include Shade Structures, more K9 grass, and replacing the ¼ inch gravel entry with stone dust. The Shade Structures would be about $4000; the K9 grass is about $24,000, and replacing the stone would be about $2000. The requests cannot be submitted until June 16, 2019 so we have until then to conduct further research.

Spring Field Schedules:
Due to the favorable winter weather and the promising upcoming forecast, the fields should be opening soon. Youth Sports teams have been patient and able to use the turf fields when the High School teams aren’t practicing. The High School Baseball and Softball teams are currently playing in the outfields with sneakers. Youth Soccer started on the Francis Wyman and Rahanis fields; and Youth Lacrosse started 2 weeks ago because they play on turf fields. The majority of the fields are lined for soccer and lacrosse, and the High School field is lined for track (shot put, discus, jumps, etc).

Volunteer Garden:
The volunteer garden is a community garden behind Francis Wyman School. People Helping People stock the Burlington Food Pantry with fresh produce from the garden. According to the 2018 end of season report, the garden produced over 1656 lbs of produce. The goal for next year is to provide over 2000 lbs of food to the food pantry.
There are 3 types of plots: leased lots (the community garden); the People Helping People Victory Garden for the Food Pantry; and the 3rd is for the Francis Wyman School. The Park & Recreation Department helps out with stone dust and wood chips; our maintenance crew helps turn the leased plots and volunteers weed and harvest crops throughout the season. Leased plots are $50 for 20x20; or $25 for 10x10. The Community Garden Manager works about 10 hours a week, caring for hoses and performing other miscellaneous tasks. According to the year-end report, Jane McIninch will be resigning her post and Fallon Woodbury will be taking over.

Mosquito Control:
East Middlesex Mosquito Control is planning to spray wetlands in and around Burlington. They use Mary PC Cummings on Blanchard Road as a landing spot. This is the 3rd year they’ve done so. They land, re-load, and take off again all within about 15 minutes. This will occur sometime during April 16th and April 26th.
Director Egan wanted to bring to the Commission’s attention in case there were some calls about the helicopter landing; and he will share the date once it is confirmed.

Parks Superintendent Report:
Interim Park Superintendent Bill Baker presented the report

Due to the good weather, the ball fields are in pretty good shape; some are low on clay. The crew has been to each of the fields and done work on Francis Wyman, Simonds, Marvin, Rotary, and Center School - cutting out sod, adding clay, cleaning up leaves, thatching, and fertilizing. The crew has lined the soccer and lacrosse fields and set up a temporary fence at Francis Wyman outfield and lower
Simonds Park. They cleaned up a large tree at Simonds Park; turned on water at the High School fieldhouse; and gotten all of the water and irrigation systems turned on. They’ve covered all of the bulbs on the Common with blue lenses for “Light It Up Blue” Autism Awareness month of April; and have been keeping up with the trash in all areas. They moved a bench which was installed at the library last summer from one side to the other; and just finished pouring the concrete square pads for 10 new garbage/recycling barrels in the Common.

The crew is working toward getting the fields open for play this Wednesday. They built the pitcher’s mounds at Simonds; spread fiber mulch on the playgrounds; and are planning to hydroseed areas that are in need this week.

**Programming Report:**

Program Coordinator Kelly Lehman presented

April 2nd we hosted a Light it Up Blue event to kick off Autism Awareness month. A number of businesses are supporting the effort with blue lights and specials. For example, A Whole Bunch of Flowers is selling blue flowers at a special cost; True North is offering blueberry muffins for free and a special blue beverage. The participating vendor list is about double from last year. The kick-off event at The Grandview was a great success and had about 75 people in attendance. Thanks to Kate DeAngelis for a wonderful job well done! During the event, a banner that was created with participants’ painted handprints is now hanging at the office. Participants decorated puzzle pieces; and were given fidgets while listening to Christian Tsestos speak to his own experiences and struggles giving hope to the families who attended.

Sneaker prom was Friday, April 5. This is an event for 16 years old plus in semi-formal attire with sneakers. There was an ‘80s theme this year which proved to be fun for those who 30+ attendants singing karaoke, building burgers, and making snap bracelets

April 13th is the Community Safety Event, a therapeutic recreation event. Working with the Burlington Police and Fire Departments, vehicles and officers in full gear will be there for those with autism or other disabilities to see what the ambulances and vehicles look like, , and speak to officers in full gear in a non-emergency setting. It is a chance for the officers to meet the families; engage in open discussion, answering families’ questions; teaching what to do in an emergency and how to set up a safety profile.

April 18th is the Easter Egg Hunt at Simonds Park. Approximately 300 people have registered. It starts at 5:30, and the hunt will be divided by age, so parents are encourage to bring 1 adult per child in different age groups.

Also on April 18th we’re hosting a Sensory Easter Bunny for kids with a disability, in a separate safe location.

**Summer:**

The interview process is underway, currently interviewing 30 candidates for 15 positions. Interviews are scheduled through the April vacation week with an attempt to get contracts out by May 1st.
We hosted the adult softball Coaches Meeting to review the rules and expectations of the leagues. Everyone is anxious to start playing!

Laurel Rossiter has been nominated for a CHOPP Champion in the Community category. As part of her nomination, she had to choose a charity of her choice to receive a donation should she win. She chose Waypoint Adventures, a non-profit in Lexington. Director Egan will send out the link to the Chopps Champions page—voting can occur once a day, every day.

**Chairman’s Report:**
Presented by Vice Chair Kevin Sullivan – no report

**Subcommittee Report:**
Vice Chair Sullivan attended the Friends of the Dog Park Meeting. They have conflicting ideas on where to spend any grant money provided.

Commissioner David Norden reminded the Commission of the Ways and Means meeting Wednesday night.

**New Business:**
Need to reorganize the Commission, done annually. The Chair steps down and another is sworn in.

Director Egan entertains a motion for a new Chairperson for 2019/2020.

Commissioner Norden made the motion for Vice Chair Kevin Sullivan to become the Chairperson; seconded by Commissioner Kevin Sheehan.

**Vote 4-0-0**

Chair Sullivan made a motion for Commissioner Norden to become Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Raymond.

**Vote 4-0-0**

**Old Business:**
Director Egan mentioned that an Oracle volunteer group will be working on the Common before Easter; weeding and mulching to clean up the beds.

BBSA will open the season on Saturday April 29th.

Duffy Properties group, who is developing the old Building 19 site, will be volunteering to clean up the woods at Simonds.

3 Seasonal maintenance staff will be starting next week with more starting late May and June.

Marvin Field – Director Egan summarized the issues with Marvin Field for Commissioner Sheehan regarding how it’s listed and the research being done to determine who legally owns the field.
Executive Session - no need

Adjournment
Motion made by Commissioner Norden to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Raymond.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 22nd, 7pm at Committee Room at Burlington High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Terese Castellano