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Burlington Recreation Commission

Meeting September 23, 2021

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Kevin Sullivan, Vice Chair Steve Nelson, Bill Gaffney and David Norden

Staff in Attendance: Parks & Recreation Director Brendan Egan, Superintendent of Park Maintenance Bill Baker and Program Coordinator Kelly Lehman

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm in the Main Hearing Room of the Burlington Town Hall, 29 Center Street

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Nelson moved to approve the Recreation Commission meeting minutes of August 16, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norden.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Commissioner Norden moved to approve the Recreation Commission meeting minutes of September 13, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nelson.

VOTE: 3-0-1 (Commissioner Gaffney abstaining)

Public Participation

None

Director of Parks and Recreation Report

Parks and Recreation Director Egan presented the following report:

Office Assistant Appointment

Patricia (Tricia) LaFauci began as the Office Assistant on Monday, September 20. We spent time going over department policy and procedures, familiarizing her with RecTrac, forms we use on a daily basis. She is quickly adapting to our office.

Simonds Park Pickleball Courts

There was a meeting with pickleball players to discuss their concerns with the temporary move of the pickleball courts at Simonds Park. There was some misinformation being spread as to the courts being permanently closed, Director Egan explained that the move was temporary and players would be notified, via social media prior to the temporary closure. Director Egan has been working on finding companies to come in to lay the temporary lines for the move. One was too expensive for the temporary move, quoting over \$3,000 and the other was not able to perform the work until next spring. The maintenance staff will be lining the courts this fall. Chair Sullivan explained that the temporary move is expected to last for approximately one week to allow the Department to do their due diligence. Director Egan then reviewed the process should the decision be made to make a permanent switch. Commissioner Norden wants to ensure that we are exhausting all options prior to making a more permanent move.

Rahanis Park

- Tennis Court Resurfacing has been completed and was opened for play on Labor Day weekend. The feedback from the community has been great and the courts look amazing!

Programming Report

Program Coordinator Lehman presented the following report:

Fall Programming

Most fall programming, other than fitness, has either started or will be starting next week. The fitness programs will begin in October. The program staff continues to provide virtual, in person and hybrid programs to ensure that participants have options that meet their comfort level. Program enrollment seems to be on par with past years and the Department has seen an increase in participants coming back into the building.

Softball Season

This year's softball season has come to a close. This will allow field use for other, non-traditional, programs to be offered in the outfield.

TR Staffing

After completing her internship this summer, the Department has hired Kasey Kingman as the new part-time Recreation Therapist. She began working in that role this week. Additionally, Emma Jones, CTRS has taken on a fall intern to help with a growing staffing issue. Katie St.Denis, a student at the University of New Hampshire, started her internship this week.

Department Sponsors

Prior to the pandemic, the Department began a new process for encouraging community partnerships in the form of a booklet sent to Burlington businesses and organizations. Work has begun to update this document with the intent of mailing it out in the beginning of November. Businesses and organizations will once again have the opportunity to be a single event sponsor or a department sponsor throughout 2022.

Spooktacular

The Spooktacular is the next special event which will be held on Friday, October 15 from 4:30 - 7 pm at Simonds Park. This year, the program staff decided to host a Spooky Walk in place of the indoor haunted house. They have created a Spooky Walk Contest for businesses and organizations in the community to create "spooky" scenes along the walk. Each scene will be judged and the winner receives a Title Level Sponsor for 2022 (\$3,000 value). Second place receives a Silver Level Sponsorship at Celebrate Burlington 2022 (\$1,500 value). The program staff is looking for judges to sit on their panel and will be reaching out to the Commissioners.

Chairman's Report

Chair Sullivan attended a Community Preservation Act meeting where Jonathan Sachs remarked that Commissioner Norden's work on the Sculpture Park has been impeccable.

Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Norden mentioned the installation of a new sculpture at the Sculpture Park.

New Business

Sibling Discount

Commissioner Nelson is sympathetic to families who have multiple children and would like to see that a sibling discount be implemented across the department. Director Egan explained our current financial assistance process and pricing structure for the Department. There was continued discussion on ways to decrease the stigma associated with applying for financial assistance including developing a streamlined process utilizing the RecTrac software. Commissioner Nelson went on to clarify that he was intending for the sibling discount to be applied for families that have twins or triplets only. There was further discussion regarding limiting access to discounts to that population exclusively. The Commission generally agreed that educating the community on