

**Burlington Recreation Commission
Meeting May 9, 2022**

RECEIVED

By Town Clerk's Office at 8:45 am, Aug 19, 2022

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Kevin Sullivan, David Norden, Bill Gaffney and Carl Foss

Staff in Attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Brendan Egan and Program Coordinator Kelly Lehman

Commissioner Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Language Arts Room at the Burlington High School, 123 Cambridge Street.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Norden moved to approve the Recreation Commission meeting minutes of April 4, 2022, as presented.

VOTE: 3-0-1

Public Participation

None.

Director of Parks and Recreation Report

Parks and Recreation Director Egan presented the following report:

Mary Cummings Park

The Trustees of the Reservation and the City of Boston would like to extend a Conservation Restriction on the property. At the last meeting, it was decided Vice Chair Steve Nelson would work with Director Egan on this project. It was determined that after Town Meeting would be the best time to meet with Town Counsel to start the discussion. In late May, Director Egan and Vice Chair Nelson will work with Town Counsel to determine what the City is looking for and voice concerns for the future.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if there was a possibility of buying the land if there was a funding source. Director Egan added they would discuss the options of purchasing the portion of the land that they utilize the most or possibly the entire property.

Simonds Trust

The Trustees recently reached out with the disbursement figure for 2022. This year, the amount that will be received is \$70,382.69 and the money will be used on the accessible treehouse. The project is moving forward as planned. The Engineering Department has a surveyor on staff who will be assisting with plotting out the area for exact measurements for trees and land. The Treehouse Guys, LLC is working with their engineer from Rhode Island on the plans. The goal is to begin building in August depending on weather and the timeline of the two projects prior to the treehouse in Burlington.

Simonds Park Disc Golf

There is a group interested in the re-design of the Simons Park Disc Golf Course that met with Director Egan before the holidays. Schedules were busy at the beginning of the year and have finally slowed a bit allowing time to view the updates to the course. The redesign keeps the course on the Cambridge Street side of the park, down into the pines, up along Church Lane and finishing behind the wading pool. The redesigned course no longer starts by the basketball courts, rather where the current second hole is located. This eliminates the swampy area below and no longer a need for a bridge. Most of the holes are not moving except for few that will only be moved a few yards. We are looking to identify flat areas to build tee boxes and avoid cement being poured for pads. We are discussing the use of pavers for the tee boxes and removes the concrete from the forest and is a less permanent option. Director Egan reached out to the person building the Meadowbrook Disc Golf course as they are using pavers for their tee boxes. There was a group of internationally ranked disc golf players who live in the area and were able to walk through the course and voice their suggestions for improvements. The course is 12-15 years old, and it is time for some improvements. The goal is to have a layout to present and go over in June. Director Egan noted it is an amenity for businesses in Burlington as players can go out on their lunch breaks or after work to play a round. This is not an expensive effort and with the potential to host tournaments, there is a possibility to recoup some of the costs.

FY23 Warrant Articles – Ways & Means

We met with Ways & Means on Wednesday April 27 to review the warrant request for FY23. During the conversation, the Ways & Means committee was updated on the accessible treehouse project at Simonds Park. After a discussion all articles passed unanimously.

Pickleball Meeting

The Acoustiblok panels have arrived and Superintendent Baker and staff have installed the extensions to the existing bottom panels. The installation of the remaining panels will take place in the coming weeks. Now that we have a full Commission, a meeting will be scheduled with the neighbors regarding the noise.

Commissioner Gaffney noted that the panels on the bottom have made a difference. Director Egan added that when the project is complete, they are hoping for a significant difference in noise levels.

Director Egan added the lights have not been scheduled yet in consideration of the neighbors.

Commissioner Gaffney added that the sport is gaining popularity and there is a decent number of younger individuals showing up to play. Program Coordinator Lehman added the younger generation is starting to pick up the sport more and the schools are now teaching it in gym classes. Director Egan noted the location of any new court needs to be a place where there are not neighbors in close proximity. He also added that having multiple courts is a great idea. Commissioner Gaffney noted that there is potential for four new buildings and a parking garage to be added to the Sun Microsystem property. If this is approved, there is an opportunity to ask what can be given back to the community. Director Egan suggested a letter of support should be drafted and sent to the Planning Board

Programming Report

Program Coordinator Lehman presented the following report:

Programming

Summer program registration opened on Wednesday, April 27. Based on staffing concerns for programs, there was some limitation on program enrollments for residents. Programs were limited to 3 weeks except for gymnastics, which is 2 weeks. Programs will re-open for the remaining opportunities, where space is available on June 3rd. Staff is encouraging residents to join waitlists in the meantime. They are hoping to open additional enrollments if they are able to add staff to the programs. Taking in account all the potential hires staffing is still down 15-20%. Program Coordinator Lehman noted staff did a great job managing enrollments to allow programs to operate in a safe environment. The office staff worked from 6pm to 8pm to help answer questions both in person and over the phone. This season is well received for registration and staff deserves a thank you!

Springapalooza

Springapalooza, is a partnership with the Burlington Public Library, Burlington Conservation and Burlington Garden Club and kicked off on May 7 with the Spring Fling at Wildwood Park. This event was well attended and well received. There was gardening, a scavenger hunt as well as the library providing a story walk. The springapalooza will continue all month with about fourteen events encouraging people to get outside.

Fishing Festival

The annual family fishing festival at the Mill Pond Reservoir will be taking place on Saturday, May 14. There will be several fishing contests as well as a found animals (ducks, frogs, etc.) contest if participants don't catch a fish.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if the town still stocked the reservoir. Program Coordinator Lehman noted they haven't stocked in the past few years, but will be stocking this year, just not in time for the festival. Director Egan added they generally get a Class A Propagator License and will be stocking this year. We typically stock around 400-500 fish including brown, brook and rainbow trout, when we do stock.

Burlington Community Health Fair

Partnering with Burlington Board of Health, staff will be co-hosting the Community Health Fair (Sponsored by Lahey Health and Medical Center) on the Burlington Town Common on Saturday May 21st. Staff is responsible for the Fit

Crawls this year for both youth and adults. This event is designed to be informative and interactive including demos at booths and other health related vendors. Kristen has been working with the Board of Health on this event for the last few months.

Therapeutic Recreation

Director Egan, Program Coordinator Lehman and Therapeutic Recreations Specialist Emma Jones met with the Disability Access Commission (DAC) on Monday, April 25 to request funds for TR programming to help offset programming fees. They asked for \$6,500 and Commission approved \$10,000 to help defray the cost of programming. There is potential to add a few more participant slots for the Therapeutic Horseback Riding with the additional amount granted. The DAC recognized the need for specialized program staff and provided extra funding to be able to increase the hourly rate for specialized staff facilitating TR Clubs throughout the summer. The Commission also provided \$1,000 for Sneaker Prom and see a big value in their efforts.

Commissioner Gaffney asked if the Sneaker Prom was held recently. Program Coordinator Lehman noted it was recently held on April 22nd.

Director Egan noted that staff did an amazing job during registration. In the past there were some issues with the software and this year there was no down time and registration went smoothly. He noted in the first hour and fifteen minutes there was \$193,000 in registration. Pre-pandemic, the numbers were only \$160 K to \$180 K in the first 24 hours.

Commissioner Norden asked how the staff manages limiting the program registrants when the registration is live. Program Coordinator Lehman noted the computer system can limit access per child, per household. The system won't allow families to register beyond the parameters. There were some issues with one sibling getting in a program and the other sibling being on the waitlist. Staff were able to remedy these problems. They proactively set enrollment numbers knowing they would have to extend the limit due to a situation like this.

Parks Superintendent Report

Superintendent Baker was unable to attend but sent the report out via email.

Commissioner Sullivan noted a neighbor of Regan Park approached him regarding the drainage by the gaga pit. He noted there was supposed to be some cleaning to prevent the flooding down to the houses. Director Egan noted that he would take a look.

Chairman's Report

None.

Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Norden noted that Sculpture Park is having a fundraiser on Saturday May 14th at 10 AM to benefit the Ukraine. There will be a dedication to Ukraine and the committee will be purchasing at least four new sculptures. They will have fifteen sculptures to choose from and will allow students to help select which ones to purchase.

New Business

Reserved Fund Report

The revolving account as of March 31, 2022, has a balance of \$266,205 of which \$220,756.27 is reserved for programs, leaving \$45,448.73 unreserved. Director Egan requested \$4,500 from the revolving account for the purchase of playground fiber for the parks and schools. There will be a larger list with programs request coming soon.

Commissioner Norden made a motion to approve \$4,500 from the revolving account for the purchase of playground fiber. Commissioner Gaffney seconded the motion.

Old Business

None.

Executive Session

Not Required.

Adjourn

VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm

Next meeting is TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Emily O'Donoghue
Recording Clerk