

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
April 3, 2019

Call to Order

6:00 pm: Chairman Shute called the meeting to order

Present: Jeff Shute, Chairman; Dwight Barnes, Nate Brown, Tom Buffington, Terry Crotty, Jeff D'Agostino, Tom DuBois, Brian Fisher, Amy Harrington and Katie Libby, Members

Absent: Jeff D'Agostino and Bryan Giard, Members

Also Present: Kevin Hill, Assistant Director

Commission Chair Discussion

Chairman Shute provided Members with a description of the Chairman's duties by email prior to the meeting. Members discussed whether a Co-Chair arrangement, as opposed to a Chair and Vice Chair structure is best. T. Buffington indicated that he would be interested in serving in a Co-Chair capacity, but didn't feel he would be able to dedicate the time to taking on the role alone. T. Crotty spoke in favor of a Co-Chair structure as it would make dividing responsibilities more simple. K. Libby asked whether the Department had any preference and if having Co-Chairs would be any more difficult to manage, K. Hill answered no, that he would be able to meet and communicate with two Co-Chairs, or with one all the same. D. Barnes, the current Vice Chairman indicated that he would not be interested in stepping into a Co-Chairman space. Chairman Shute offered to run the April meeting as his last.

Motion: K. Libby moves to establish a Co-Chair structure with the positions to be filled at the open of the May meeting

Second: N. Brown

Vote: Yea 9, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Minutes - March 2019 Meeting

Motion: T. Crotty moves the minutes as written

Second: N. Brown

Vote: Yea 9, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

DPR Financial Update

D. Barnes presented Members with a year to date and year over year look at the various accounting lines through the close of March 2019. Program revenues have exceeded 2018 by approximately \$6,800. D. Barnes summarized key pieces of the year over year difference. Early Youth Baseball and Softball Registrations in 2019 and the large equipment purchase in 2018 has resulted in a notable increase in that line when comparing 2018 to 2019. The Hoops Classic is well ahead of 2018, however there are several expenses yet to clear. The After School Clubhouse line is down \$9,700, an amount that is closely correlated to the reduced capacity and enrollment. T. Crotty asked if the current Revolving Account figure is \$158,014 and D. Barnes confirmed.

Baseball/Softball/Tee Ball Update

K. Hill reported that player evaluations are complete and teams have been established. There will be five baseball and three softball teams. Tee ball saw 46 players register, a large jump over last year. DPR is considering running two Tee Ball sessions each week, splitting the younger and older players in an effort to keep the level of play age appropriate and safe.

The online store has been extended through Sunday, all teams will be Navy, except at the level where there are two teams, one will be red. DPR will get word out to coaches this week regarding the rosters, online store and field

conditions. League dues have been paid and DPR expects a small equipment purchase will be needed, including additional bags for catchers gear and some smaller catchers equipment for the youngest softball level. Uniforms have been ordered and should arrive during April break, games will begin the week of April 29th, Opening Day will be May 11th and Field Cleanup Day will be April 13th. DPR will be monitoring field conditions and communicating with Coaches once practices can begin. T. Buffington reminded that the soccer goals need to be removed from Hartford Brook.

Hoop Classic Update

Five games remain with all scheduled for Championship Saturday, April 6th. There is a good representation of Towns in the final round including four teams from Londonderry, two from Bedford, and one each from Stratham, New Market and Kensington. The Tournament has run well, volunteerism is up from last year, but it would be good to have an increased variety of volunteers. The goal for 2020 will be continued improvement on the volunteer front. K. Hill presented a financial breakdown of the revenues and expenses. T. Crotty complimented the light show and announcements, a great experience for all players. The Joe Stone Scholarship 50/50 raffle has raised \$147 so far, the winner will be drawn during half time of the final game.

One Call System / RecDeck Alerts

K. Hill updated that DPR has learned that a feature similar to the One Call System used by DCS may be available through RecDesk. Nick has been working with Deerfield's IT department to sort through the technical specifics. K. Libby asked whether using the feature was included in the current contract or would it be an added cost? K. Hill answered that it is included in the current cost. T. Crotty noted that it would be nice to keep all data in one system if the email limitations can be sorted through.

Fall Soccer

2018 registrations were launched in May. Last year a fee increase was recommended based on anticipated equipment purchases and providing a soccer ball to each player. 2018 Registration fees were \$45 for pre-k and kindergarten levels and \$60 for the older grades. DPR would like to launch the 2019 registrations in May before everyone breaks for Summer. Candia's Fall Soccer registrations will go live May 1st. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 1st and K. Hill asked that Members look to formalize Fall Soccer decisions at that time.

Community Center/Recreation Building

A Community Center Building is one program investment that was mentioned several times on the recent SNHPC Survey and Chairman Shute thought it would be appropriate to start a deeper discussion. DPR might look to establish a Trust Fund in order to move money from the Revolving Fund to be earmarked for this purpose. He suggested that there may be room for a Community Center on the DCS land and that future Warrant Article funding may be a way to move toward the broader goal. N. Brown and Chairman Shute expressed interest in working on a sub committee to explore the idea further. A. Harrington asked whether the survey responses specified that people would like to see this project developed with Tax Dollars? The answer was unknown. T. Buffington was optimistic, noting that generally the Town looks favorably on investments that involve the kids, the school and planning for Deerfield's future. K. Libby suggested that maybe the Planning or Zoning Boards know of development projects in the pipeline that would result in the use of a piece of land similar to the way Hartford Book came about. Chairman Shute will ask Fred McGarry his thoughts.

DPRC Bylaw Committee

T. Crotty and J. D'Agostino are spearheading this effort and have been researching bylaw examples from other Recreation Commissions. They will continue to develop the concept and return to the Commission with recommendation. As part of the review they are also considering the Commission's Mission Statement to see whether a change or modification to the way it is expressed would be appropriate.

Citizens Comments

None

New Business

Chairman Shute asked how many Red Sox tickets were purchased and how many remain, K. Hill answered that twenty seven tickets were bought and there are approximately ten remaining.

Chairman Shute shared the sad news of the passing of DPR Director Nick Lawrence's father. Nick will be returning to the Office next week after some time away. There is a GoFundMe page to help with the family's funeral expenses.

Chairman Shute noted that the Town is collecting bids for lawn care and maintenance of fields and the ballfields will be included in the RFP. Bids will be submitted over the next couple of weeks. T. Crotty was in support of not relying on the DPR Director or Assistant Director to mow the fields, but felt it would be OK to have them as a backup option should something unexpected come up. He asked whether it would be an insurance issue if volunteers stepped up to maintain the fields. An answer was not immediately available. K. Libby suggested maybe using the volunteer information that was collected during the registration process and asked how much time it takes to mow. K. Hill answered that the registration forms asked for parents who were interested in Coaching or Concessions. The field takes approximately two to three hours each week plus time to weed whack. From start to finish to mow, weed whack, drag and line the fields it could take five or six hours. He noted that it's also important to keep the life expectancy of the equipment in mind, each season gives a lot of wear and tear on the mower.

A. Harrington updated that the Joe Stone Scholarship flyers have been sent out to area High Schools and information will be put on Facebook. The deadline for applications is April 25th for a Commission decision in May. D. Barnes confirmed that there is enough money in the Fund for two scholarships if that's what the Commission decides to award.

Adjournment

Motion: T. Crotty moves to adjourn

Second: T. Buffington

Vote: Yea 9, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 1st @ 6:00pm

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.

Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission