

South Hadley Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes: January 14, 2019
Recreation Department Office – Town Hall

Presented by Recreation Director Andrew Rogers

1. **Roll Call:** Meeting called to order at 5:45pm by BC. Attendance: PD, DM, BJ, BC, RC, RK.
Staff: AR, DS.
2. **Minutes of October 9, 2018:** Approved as read. PD/BJ. 5-0.
3. **Bills Payable:** Approved as presented. PD/RC. 6-0. It was noted that there was a new pair of soccer goals purchased that have easily replaceable replacement part and the Celtics trip is looking good this time.
4. **Correspondence:** AR gave an update on the important correspondence over the previous month. Of note was a response to a parent about how teams are made where AR said he spent a lot of time and effort with no response. We have applied for a grant for the summer concerts. There were a few emails about the direction of the department that will be discussed later in the meeting.
5. **Schedule of Events:** The schedule of events was reviewed, and Danielle gave an update. There is a waitlist for the Art Ventures at Plains School and they school is unable to provide a second room. We have a few bus trips coming up to the Celtics, Red Sox and James Taylor.
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. Dog Park: AR noted that the town has applied for a grant and that it was accepted for the design of the project. They will be moving forward in the upcoming months.
 - b. DM gave an update on the effort to reach Mr. Giamatti's family to name the baseball field at Beachgrounds after him. They will continue to reach out.
 - c. Fireworks will be Wednesday, July 3 with a rain date of Friday, July 5. We will be working on soliciting funding for the event over the upcoming months.
 - d. A quick update on our winter programs was given. It was noted the baby-sitting class is upcoming and BC suggested putting on the TV at SHHS.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. Ryan Kenney was introduced, and he noted he is new to town, has three young children and is excited to get involved.
 - b. There was discussion about allowing a grade 1 ROOTS team this spring per a parent request. We have allowed grade 2 teams in the past as they would be entering the league in the fall of the next season; however, with our intown program in the fall for grade 2, it was voted to not sponsor this age team. BJ/RC, 6-0.
 - c. AR said that both football and cheerleading have asked about changing the names of the youth teams to just "Tigers" for a variety of reason. First, with fundraising and apparel orders, it is much easier to go with Tigers over a specific team name and things can be done from the high school down to the youth. Additionally, the schools have rebranded as "Tigers" so that matches up there. Most of our other youth teams are always referred to as Tigers. It was approved unanimously. PD/DM.

- d. AR gave an update on the Capital Improvement items and that they will probably have to push off the potential fitness pad to the following year as we try to get those current requests done.
- e. AR gave an update on the direction of the department after a meeting with the TA and Assistant TA. With AR's role at Ledges changing, they are looking for him to focus attention on getting involved in non-sports activities as opposed to going back to what he did before. Getting involved with the Bike Walk Committee, Council on Aging, and promoting all recreational activities in South Hadley (make the public aware of all the options they can do both publicly and privately). In addition, completing a thorough review of our current programs.

Ray Carillon and Mark Zraunig both wrote letters to AR with concerns about some of the sports and ways to improve those programs. RC noted that we shouldn't have co-coaches and perhaps, assistant coaches should be limited in number. Having team maximums and minimums based on each sport/level to ensure the best experience for the kids. Moving forward, it was discussed that we have sub-committees that can focus on sports or issues. One example would be a coach selection committee when more than one coach applies and that would take some pressure off AR and DS to not have to pick between residents that both might be qualified. Tryout times were also discussed having them posted well in advance of any season. It was suggested that we have a summary of everything we do, look at each program and then make decisions pertaining to that.

8. **Adjournment** at 7:25pm. PD/RC. 6-0.