

South Hadley Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes: April 9, 2019
Recreation Department Office – Town Hall

Presented by Recreation Director Andrew Rogers

1. **Roll Call:** Meeting called to order at 5:40pm by BC. Attendance: PD, DM, BJ, BC, RC, MZ, RK.
Staff: AR
2. **Minutes of March 12, 2019:** Approved as amended (fixing a typo): PD/RC. 7-0.
3. **Bills Payable:** Approved as presented. DM/BJ. 7-0.
4. **Correspondence:** AR reviewed the correspondence from the previous month. Of note RC what the parents could do to help conditions at the Town Farm field. Can they help patch holes in the ground or anything else? AR will follow up with Bill Simard from Parks Dept to find out. MZ asked a question about joining the Parks and Recreation Departments together to be able to get more things done.
5. **Schedule of Events:** The schedule of events was reviewed.
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. Dog Park: The Dog Park is currently struggling with fundraising at the moment and the committee is trying to find additional ways to raise money.
 - b. The discussion to name Beachgrounds #2 after Bart Giamatti was further discussed. RC mentioned the letter he has passed along and is waiting to hear back from the Baseball Committee about their involvement. They would like the Town to help at some point contacting the family through our official social media platforms. AR did say that Kristin Maher used to work for the Town Reminder and is an excellent writer, so she could potentially help.
 - c. There was a quick reminder of what is needed for the Easter Egg Hunt and Hat Parade to be held on April 20. We are looking for help with this event from the Commission.
 - d. There was a discussion about spring sports. The team counts have been good except for a bad number of 7/8th boys for baseball. We would like to have two teams; however, it might just be one larger team. MZ said he was approached about the differences between 3/4 boys and girls baseball/softball. One is entirely kid pitch while the softball involves coach pitch and some kid pitch. Additionally, baseball has umpires and softball does not. AR explained that each league has its own group of coordinators that make decisions based on historical play in the league. There are female recreation professionals involved in both leagues. The leagues make decisions on what we feel is best for the athletes involved in those sports, and not trying to be “equal” between the two genders. In softball, the coaches pitch to guarantee the girls get a chance to see some good pitches and the kid pitch portion is very difficult. RC followed up hoping that with the new JLS league, they will be able to help accommodate soccer and baseball scheduling.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. Michelle Wolfe from the Master Plan Committee stopped by to discuss the Recreation Department and how it related to the Master Plan. She mentioned the “meetings in a

box” that are upcoming and the variety of things we do and could do. It was talked about more Pre-K programs, E-Sports, the pool and other things that could be done.

b. There was a brief discussion about the AD at the high school and how they might be eliminating that as a full-time position.

c.

8. **Adjournment** at 7:00pm. DM/MZ. 7-0.