

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

Presented by Recreation Director Andrew Rogers

1. **Roll Call:** Meeting called to order at 5:40pm by PD. Attendance: PD, DM, BJ, RC, MZ. Staff: AR. Excused: BC, DS. Recently appointed Commissioner Laura Friesner was in attendance. The town is waiting from approval from the State for changing from seven to nine commission members.
2. **Minutes of June 17, 2019:** Approved: DM/BJ. 6-0.
3. **Bills Payable:** Approved as presented. RC/BJ. 6-0.
4. **Correspondence:** AR reviewed the correspondence from the previous month. Of note was the fact Falls Fest is cancelled this year for a variety of reasons. MASH is hoping to bring it back in 2020. There was some discussion about a complaint from Ed Wall who coached our 7/8th grade rec softball team. Wilbraham had to call up some players from their 5/6th grade team and the league coordinators allowed it (the girls were two 5th graders). Ed sent numerous emails to both AR and DS along with a variety of other league coordinators and a Facebook Post expressing his displeasure. After some discussion, it was noted that games should be won on the field and not by a ruling. Finally, AR received a complaint from a 7th grade soccer parent Scott Kinney about the tryout process and history of the ROOTS teams in that age group. There were also complaints of boys sports versus girls sports. AR is still working on a response currently. RC noted that a parent group will potentially be able to help with this in the future.
5. **Schedule of Events:** The schedule of events was reviewed.
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. Dog Park: AR had no update on the Dog Park at this point, other than there is a public hearing from Conservation coming up shortly.
 - b. Bart Giamatti: There is no update on the attempt to name the baseball diamond after Mr. Giamatti.
 - c. Spring Sports: There was a review of the spring sports season that went very well, with a few minor exceptions. It was noted by DM that the fields are in great shape this year. RC did note that the mounds at both Landers and Beachgrounds are both damaged and could use some repair. AR said that has always been an issue with limited Parks Dept staff and the amount of labor required to keep up a clay mound; however, he will pass along that information.
 - d. Fireworks: BJ said the show was fantastic and people seemed very happy. AR said he only heard one complaint from someone that felt they were discount fireworks. AR checked with the neighbor on Stanton Ave and her yard was debris free this year. There was very little wind, so that helped along with a different angle to shoot the show. MZ asked how the budget was for this event and AR said it was healthy with the current donation structure. The thought of brining in outside food vendors will be discussed more in the future.

- e. ROOTS Soccer: AR discussed how they would be hoping to start a soccer association to help run ROOTS soccer and will be passing along that message this fall.

7. New Business:

- a. There was discussion about setting up some sub-committee for the commission to help tackle some items and assist both AR and DS. This was also told to AR from Town Administrator Mike Sullivan who said Chairwomen Miles was hoping to see those created. Some ideas were:
 - i. Special Events/Trips Committee
 - ii. Coaching Committee: training, selection, education
 - iii. Complaint Committee
 - iv. Pre-K and/or Senior Activities Committee
 - v. Parks/Field/Capital Improvement Committee
 - vi. Fundraising Committee
 - vii. Program Creation Committee
- b. Park Signage: AR said he has been working with the Police Chief and Parks Dept director to come up with some new park signage that will help them enforce various bylaws. MZ asked if it can be posted that cameras are present in parks to help as a deterrent.
- c. AR asked if people would be around for the next meeting date of August 13 as this will be a reorganization meeting.

8. Adjournment at 7:05pm. DM/MZ. 6-0.