

**Hartford Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Thursday, March 11, 2021**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Michael Vanasse, David Crocco, Jr., Allison Childs, Brett Mayfield

**Others in Attendance:** Scott Hausler P&R Director; Joe Major, Select Board Liaison

Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Michael Vanasse.

The February 2021 meeting minutes were moved and approved.

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Commission Member Comments:** None

**Director's Reports** (highlights)

- Valentine Sweetheart Skate and Hearts in the Park were successful programs
- February Vacation Camp was at maximum capacity of 21 and sold out within days. Hopes are that as COVID restrictions are lifted, more participants will be able to attend vacation camps
- Youth basketball programs are going well. Skills and drills are the focus and there are up to 125 participants
- Discussion regarding summer concert series. Noted that again this year the concerts will be held at Lyman Point Park only. Scott indicated that this was the safest route for another summer. It allows the department to create the pods that allow for social distancing. As the summer develops, and if restrictions allow, the Quechee Green concerts might be a possibility.

**Old Business:**

- **Community Center** – nothing new to report. The results of the survey will help determine whether or not the Center would be a viable project.
- **Pool Project Update:** Project is progressing. Core drills will be taken the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The committee will have their first meeting. Items for discussion will most likely concentrate on some cosmetic decisions, i.e. colors, and matching the appearances of other buildings on site. There is a decision to be made as to whether the current pool should be drained. The permit applications are in place. It doesn't appear that storm water permitting will be necessary due to the existence of the current pool.
- **Department Budget Review:** Scott reviewed the budget that he had distributed earlier to the Committee Members. During the discussion, Joe asked whether or not the department had ever thought of using an "enterprising" system versus the support of utilizing Town tax dollars. Scott indicated that there were some towns/cities that operated in this fashion, but it would be

a very time-consuming and difficult task to analyze the costs associated with each program. Some adult programs might be able to cover their own expenses, but generally, to enterprise the recreation department programs, it could mean increased fees which could impact participation and the closure of some parks in the Town. It was noted that the subject arose from a discussion at a recent Select Board Meeting. During the discussion, a suggestion was made that the current recreation programs are utilized by the middle to upper income Town citizens. Brett Mayfield noted that the recreation programs and town parks are utilized heavily by mid to low-income families and that if an enterprise system be put in place, it could create a hardship for income sensitive families.

- **Finalize Upcoming Survey:** Committee members had reviewed the survey prior to the meeting and felt that it was complete and would be informative. **Motion was made and approved to adopt the survey as presented to the Board.**
- **Finalize Goals and Objectives:** Committee members reviewed the goals and objectives. Some discussions ensued regarding the vision and mission of the department. It was discussed that the department is creating a “one-town” feel and the goal has been to work with the school district instead of it being a separate entity on its own. **Motion was made and approved to accept the Goals and Objectives as reviewed.**

**New Business:**

- **Review of Risk Management:** Moved to next meeting.

**Agenda Items for Next Rec Commission Meeting:**

- Review of Risk Management Plan
- Schedule Spring Park Tour
  - Brett suggested that the three new members of the Select Board be invited to join the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and at that time the spring park tour occur.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Allison Childs

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_