

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING - MINUTES

DATE: 9/28/20

TIME: 6pm

PLACE: Town Hall Annex (Gym)

ATTENDANCE: Dana Stewart, Renee Dufour, Becky Leverett, Cecilia Carney, Tim Gillespie

ABSENT: Erik Reis

Open Meeting: 6:03pm meeting called to order by Renee Dufour

Approve Minutes: 7/20/20 Minutes reviewed and approved by Recreation Commission - motion to approve the minutes by Tim Gillespie; second by Becky Leverett

Old Business:

- Plan for improvements to outside/back area of Annex
 - Wayne (Maintenance Man) says Highway Dept. will take down old fencing soon. They will be recycling it to use at the Senior Center (Council on Aging) for a project there.
 - Tim Gillespie will follow up with Highway Dept. to talk to them about the other things that need to be done; Dana Stewart to email list to Tim Gillespie.
- Update on Recreation Software – MyRec.com
 - Software is purchased and steps are being taken to get it up and running, hopefully by end of Oct. Will have our own website and online registration/payment capability.

New Business – Directors Report:

- Westport Food Pantry
 - Location transitioned to the Westport Grange on 9/1
 - New location going well; Dana Stewart shared the flyer and invited Recreation Commission members to come see it anytime M-Th, 9am-12pm.
 - Have a team of 15 volunteers and growing
 - Dana Stewart shared the document that highlights the volunteer rotation schedule.
 - Update on 501c3
 - On 9/21 Dana Stewart presented at the board meeting of the Friends of the Westport Council on Aging to propose a fiscal partnership between them and the Westport Food Pantry. This would enable the Westport Food Pantry to share their 501c3 status and be able to become a member of the Greater Boston Food Bank in order to get free food. It would also open up more grant opportunities. The Westport Food Pantry serves on average 146 seniors in the community every week. An MOU was created and presented to establish the possible partnership. Next steps are: a meeting with Tim King and the Friends of COA reps; their board voting to approve; signing the MOU.
- Summer Rec Programs
 - Tennis, Yoga
 - These programs went well; Tennis on hold until spring; Yoga continuing in fall
- Fall/Winter Rec Programs
 - Yoga, Outdoor Movie Night, Art Workshops, Halloween Event, others TBD
 - Yoga on Tues and Thurs nights outside until weather gets cold, then it will move in the gym.
 - Outdoor Movie Night was a success! Great partnership with the Cultural Council. Nice large, professional movie screen purchased/made with grant money for Cultural Council film efforts. Hope to offer another movie in Oct.
 - A new instructor will be offering a two part art workshop called: Indigo Scarves in the month of Oct.
 - Working on plans for a possible Halloween Event, partnered with WLCT and Westport Historical Society. Details still TBD.

- *Working on other program ideas during this challenging time of COVID.*
- Spring/Summer 2021 Rec Programs
 - Youth Rowing Programs; Partnering with Dharma Voyage
 - *Very excited about this partnership! Had a meeting with three of the Dharma Voyage representatives to discuss. More info to come.*
- Gym Rentals
 - Update
 - *Having to refund people for gym rentals, several want to cancel their events due to COVID*
 - *May be renting the gym for a Tai Chi class, still TBD*
- COVID-19 Safety
 - Hand held sanitizing mister – *Dana S. looking into getting one for the Rec. Dept.*
 - MIIA Grant (joint application through the town)
 - Signs posted, supplies purchased
- Financials
 - *Financials for end of FY2019-20 were discussed and report given for Recreation Dept. and Westport Food Pantry.*

Other Topics:

- *Tim G. asked the Recreation Commission if they wanted to show support for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to use funds for the renovation of the Old Campground Site, purchased by the town, for possible fields/recreation purposes.*
 - *Motion from Renee D. to support use of CPC funds for use of recreational facilities; second by Becky L.*
- *Dana S. asked if the Recreation Commission would approve cell phone reimbursement for her position as Recreation Director since she uses her personal cell phone all the time for work purposes. This also falls in line with what other Department Heads get.*
 - *Motion from Renee D. to allow Dana S. to have cell phone reimbursement; second by Becky L.*

Close Meeting: 7:15pm motion to adjourn the meeting by Renee D.; second by Becky L.

Next Meeting: Oct 19, 2020 at 6pm