

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Regular Meeting Minutes, June 23, 2020
TOWN HALL

Approved July 14th, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:03.

Members Present: Eric Jacobson, Carrie Joseph, Dave Turcotte, Dan Slattery

Review Minutes: Eric J. make a motion to approve June 9th meeting minutes. Dave 2nd, all in favor 4-0.

Bills & Payroll: Need to maintain no more than a 30 hr/week schedule for park maintenance.

Summer Program – Carrie discussed a question from a mother looking to send her children to the summer program with a para to assist them. Per the board, the para would need to submit a CORI and wear a mask, and the children would be unable to switch to different groups throughout their time at the program due to COVID-19 regulations. This will be discussed with Joey. There have also been parents questioning the requirement to wear a mask at the program. Parks and Recreation is following social distancing and state regulations regarding this matter. Carrie then discussed some notes from the health care consultant who met with the camp counselors to go over new COVID-19 procedures and protocols. Temperature checks are no longer required however it is recommended. 100.0 is considered a high temp and children would need to be fever free without medicine for 24 hours before being able to return to the program as well as have a negative COVID test. It is also recommended that parents wear masks at drop off/pick up, but it is not required. Parents should send in 2 masks and label them if possible. The department will need to create a health check list. The Board then said if there was a confirmed case that they will have to notify the BOH and shut down the program and park for cleaning. Carrie has been in constant contact with Joey and Johanna, a nurse consultant. Counselors will sign for the parent who answers the health questionnaire each morning.

Next Wednesday is the last day to register for Week 1. As of now there are less than 10 registrations. Discussion ensued about if/when to cancel camp due to low enrollment. Dan said the program would need 22 registrations per week to break even financially. The final numbers will be set by Thursday. If there is a pattern with low numbers, there will be a discussion about closing the program. Joey does a great job of breaking the kids into groups and managing the counselors work schedule. Another counselor quit but Joey was able to hire another counselor. Everyone received a 3% raise. Carrie and Joey will decide on pay rate for new hire. The Board asked if there had been any applications for camp counselors as to ensure a fair hiring process.

Summer Baseball – An email and registration form went out via email today. Wilbraham has a 3/4 and 5/6 team. It is anticipated that each town will be short for numbers, so combining to form teams with Wilbraham is most likely. This season will not be a part of the Western Suburban Baseball League but will be coordinated by Wilbraham. Niccum Field is not available. TWB fields need to be ready for practices. This could maybe be community service for the Hampden Dirt Dawgs. Dan tried to contact Phil to see if he wanted to coach the 7/8 team, but he hasn't heard anything back. Powerhouse is also looking to use one of the baseball fields and in exchange Jon Davis would run a clinic. Dave is going to reach out to Derrick regarding this.

Consider the schedule for potential practices and games and maybe schedule games for Saturdays with Sunday as a make-up day. Suggestion to set up a day to work on the fields/line it. Need to get the batting cage nets set up as well. Ask Ed to please start rascalling the fields at TWB. Dan will call Phil to see if the Dirt Dawgs can participate in cleaning up the fields.

Fall Soccer – TBD. Chicopee hasn't made a decision yet. Probably will be a last-minute thing.

Memorial Park Upgrades – The shark is being installed on Thursday, and the company will also look at the turtle to see if they can fix it. The date for the delivery of the auto hand sanitizer dispensers has been moved until July 18th.

Eric J. called the meeting to adjourn at 7:29pm. Dave 2nd. All in favor 4-0.