



Town of North Reading
Massachusetts

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Parks & Recreation Department

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**Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes of
Monday, April, 4 2022
Town Hall Room 5/ Virtual at 7PM**

Attendance:

Committee Members: Ron Kern (RK), Pat Filmore (PF), Sergio Coviello (SC), Rita Mullin (RM), Sheila Sturdevant (SS), Mike Fitzpatrick (MF)

Staff: Marty Tilton (MT), Maria Brown (MB) Nancy Ursino (NU) Heidi Veader (HV)

Tardy:

Absent: Billie Luker (BL)

Call to order: @7:00pm; Quorum, called by RK

Audience of Citizens: Daniel Greenberg & Kathy Sumner on zoom, Kate Araniz, Bill Reed, Ken Tarr, Phil Hertz & Margaret Salt from LUC in person.

Acceptance of Minutes: @ 7:02PM

(SS) Made a motion to accept the minutes of March 7, 2022

(PF) Second the motion.

Approved: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Motion: PASSED

(SS) Made a motion for Rita Mullin to remain LUC/Rec Representative

(SC) Second the motion

LUC: (RM) introduced Kate (KA) for an update, as she needs to finalize fencing, plots & boxes. Kate is working on a getting a subcommittee to help with fundraising, looking to rent the space at IRP for 2 years. MT said that there is a hose there so not a huge hurdle, Kate said to hold space for 2 yrs , nothing will get done until approved. MT stated we have been approached by NRHS kids and have referred them to contact Kate, all Kate wants is for the kids to get an agricultural education on this project and the NR community to come together. Daniel on zoom had asked if there could be markers placed in the area s to where the Community Garden will be going and she said she will email him the sketch she has & she showed the group, it will be adjacent of the parking lot on the right between the telephone poles. Rita stated any money collected over time will be held until approved and placed in the LUC. Ken said NRHS teacher has talked about putting together a nature walk and providing signage throughout the IRP park by using QR codes (take a picture with your cell phone) to know about the habitat , there will be a presentation for next year's class.

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Acceptance of Community Garden:

(KA) Made a motion @ 7:07 PM

(RM) Second the motion @ 7:22 PM

LUC: Approved: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Motion: PASSED

(RM) Made a motion

(SS) Second a motion

Rec Com: Approved: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Motion: PASSED

OLD BUSINESS: LUC- They will have a bike trail meeting next week & they would like for Parks & Rec to attend to be able to have knowledge regarding the 2.5 mile long trail, if Parks & Rec receives phone calls about it please provide them with Phil Hertz email phil.hertz@verizon.net & there is also an updated presentation online at <https://www.northreadingma.gov/land-utilization-committee>.

NEW BUSINESS: Re-Appointment vote for recreation committee members- It was determined Committee members are all being reappointed as follows:

Ron Kern Chair

Rita Mullin Vice Chair

Billie Luker Clerk

Sergio Coviello Committee Member

Pat Fillmore Committee Member

Sheila Sturdevant Committee Member

Mike Fitzpatrick Committee Member

VOTE was taken: Approved: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Motion: PASSED

(MB) Was contacted by a group through NR Human Rights Council called Merrimack Valley Black & Brown Voices, Melissa Audier, BIPOC which stands for Black, Indigenous & People of Color asking for a Sunday in July from 11-3 to have an outdoor market event to sell their products such as soaps, candles, crafts, jewelry & baked goods, a grant has been received, they would like to introduce their culture to our community. (MB) has already contacted the BOH and they would provide a permit for the one day. (RM) requested that (MB) talk with the TA to get his opinion and thoughts. (MB) will follow up with Melissa and ask some questions such as how large do they expect it to be, what's the security, how many vendors do they expect, how do they bring in there items (trailers) would they be willing to present to the committee how there event goes at one of our meetings.

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OTHER BUSINESS:

Operations Director (MB) Last month our deficit was \$65K & this month so far we are \$11K in deficit. Summer program registrations coming in and permit requests along with user fees. We are looking good for our surplus by end of June.

Recreation Director: (NU) We all clapped and congratulated Nancy on her new position as the Rec Dir. We opened up the Spring/Summer registration on March 15 and had over 360 registrations in one day & as of today 4/4/22 we have 83 Summerscape members. We have termed Matt Tiberii tennis instructor as an employee and have him as a SME position so we are adding 2 more programs one through Matt with a different age bracket and also basketball. Great news with the 9 interviews for summer positions they all accepted, the ETF's are ready to go to (MT) & we have a new Programmer that will be starting on May 2 Ashley L, she is eager to work with the recreation department and has lots of positive energy to share. We still need A Director for Summerscape, we had an interview today 4/4/22 but we will not be offering him the position as he was not a good fit, we did interview a woman and thought she would be perfect but she had reached out and denied the position at this time. I will reach out to the NRHS Mr Kane to see if he is aware of any candidates. We did hire a new toddler instructor Beatrice who started today 4/4/22 as Deb had to take a LOA for her family. Fishing Derby- spoke with Lauren Bruin who is still pursuing the event to happen the end of June (we need to confirm a date soon)

Parks Dept Head/ Director: (MT) Thanked Nancy & Heidi for a smooth transition they have been doing awesome and keeping everything going, very seamless, everyone communicates very well. Nervous about the budget hearing on 3/28/22 but they all seemed pleased & didn't bat an eyelash, happy with Brian's salary & we are asking for \$4K less than last year. Opening up the fields as the weather will allow us to, typically we open it up in mid-April 15th or so. I am all set with seasonal help I have a few great guys, we did placed a bench on April 2 near the gazebo area & family was pleased and we have a few more coming. Tennis nets went up today 4/4/22 @ IRP. Youth Soccer wants to hire a sub-contractor for the Maguire field to help out with special treatments a few times throughout the year that they will pay for. (MT) gave them STS contractor as that is who he uses. (MT) & (MB) met with the TA & Liz to give them a breakdown of how the \$100K grant from the state will be utilized, such as \$40K for the tennis courts/pickleball lines, \$40K for the playground at IRP, \$10K for the basketball court & \$10K for the hockey rink. (MT) also asked the TA if we could use some of the retained earnings if needed to finish the projects \$25K as we have \$145K in retained earnings. (SC) asked if the horseshoe area was going to be repaved/ lined for pickleball, but at this time they won't be able to do it as it would cost \$50K for 3 pickleball courts to be done as they will require it to be fenced in. (RM) stated what about Kids Spot that needs to be done as well, but (MT) said we need to hire an architect and it needs to be totally done over as it is well over 30 + years old and needs to be up to code with ramps & up to ADA standards. (RM) wants to see it on the schedule over for the next fiscal year of 2023. (RK) recommended that we put together a few slides on our town website letting the town residents know the upcoming projects.

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FONRPRC: (SS) Keeping all positions as is, they took a vote annual gifts for Parks & Rec will remain at \$1K . Summer BBQ dates are 6/29, 7/13, 7/20 & 7/27 and we are all set with entertainers & bands, we discussed about getting sponsors for gate fees, subcommittee for the food menu. We are bringing back the Disney Character breakfast and will reserve the Moose 1/22/23 with a snow date of 1/29/23, also booking a Wine & Food Social for 3/23/23 with a snow date of 3/31/23.

Next Meeting Date: May 9, 2022 @ 7:00 PM @ Town Hall Room 5

Adjournment: @ 8:58 PM

(PF) Made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:58 PM

(SC) Seconds the motion.

Approved: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Motion: PASSED