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Town of North Reading
Massachusetts

Parks & Recreation Department

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
NORTH READING, MASS.

**Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes of
Monday, September 26, 2022
Town Hall Room 5 @ 7PM**

Attendance:

Committee Members: Ron Kern (RK), Pat Fillmore (PF), Sergio Coviello (SC), Rita Mullin (RM) Billie Luker (BL)

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

Tardy:

Absent: Mike Fitzpatrick (MF) Sheila Sturdevant (SS)

Call to order: @7:03pm; Quorum, called by RK

Audience of Citizens: Nikki Tosi & Rebecca Griffin from Commissions on Disability

LUC:

Acceptance of Minutes: @ 7:04PM

(PF) Made a motion to accept the minutes of August 22, 2022

(SC) Second the motion.

Ron had us all introduce ourselves to the citizens and then proceeded to let them know what the Parks & Rec Committee and LUC are all about, how the funding comes from the town & what the state helps us out with such as grants. We have about 10 meetings a year.

NEW BUSINESS:- Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:- Nothing to report

OTHER BUSINESS:- Nothing to report

PARKS DIRECTOR: Marty said he wasn't able to proceed with the IRP playground/ Kids Spot as the TA Mike Gilleberto stated we need to get bids on it first then can move forward. Marty said he has been a Parks Dir since 2008 and it has been his dream to get the parks up to code by being ADA compliant everything just takes time & funding. Marty had met with Gina who is a part of the COD and she was happy with what the plans would be for the kids spot & IRP playground. We have a grant of \$50K from the state hoping to get the \$150K more just awaiting on responses, we have an engineer that will be able to do the design.

Nikki-(citizen) asked if FONRPR do more fund raising. Stated how the skate park needs to be revamped as it can be dangerous such as the railing is broke, is there a certain amount to clean up the skate park? **Marty** said honestly it has been one big pain as he is constantly doing repairs and we do not rent out that space so there is no revenue coming in for it to get repaired, such as

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painting over the graffiti, fixing the ramps, nails & railings. Only has 2 full time guys to help with 120 acres of parks and is inundated with projects and everyday clean up and maintenance.

Ron- Said 6 yrs ago they were looking into having a pass to be able to get into the skate park but the citizens didn't like that and it got shut down. **Rita** stated that the Parks dept for outside work there definitely should be more help and she is interested as to what Nikki & Rebecca have to say. **Rebecca** said that her husband can help with the design for the skate park as he has done surrounding parks & gave Marty some examples and she said that Tony Hawk is giving out grants, there are a few websites that have local grants, landscape structures etc. Rebecca also asked about Clarke Park that there are over grown weeds, why the dock is left in the water all year and not removed? Marty said it hasn't been removed in 12 yrs and due to the structure of it, it isn't designed to come out.

Ron- said funds from the state will go to the playground, tennis courts, hockey rink, and basketball courts etc- priorities the last 3-4 years. There has been some drug use & alcohol use at the skate park, and there is one gentleman that we have that does clean up on the parks he shouldn't have to see the nasty graffiti and clean it up/ Nikki asked if fencing was in the plans at either park to help keep the kids in the park as her child has ADHD and will dart out, Marty said just at Kids Spot as the structure of IRP doesn't allow fencing to be up. Nikki & Rebecca said if anyone wanted to come to any of their meetings we are all welcome, there next one is on 10/11/22.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR: Maria said that in 2 months of the fiscal year we are - \$35K but after a deposit on Tuesday 9/27/22 of \$12454.00 we will be - \$22K but last year we were down \$100K so I'd say we are doing pretty great for this fiscal year thus far, all league fees and permits are still rolling in.

RECREATION DIRECTOR: Nancy said the Fall brochure is up online, Heidi does daily Facebook & NR Community posts of different programs that are running , also she will do weekly flyers and place them in the front lobby of Town Hall & also the gym as we got a flyer holder and put it up, toddler programs are doing well, we still only have 2 instructors as the 3rd instructor is still out on a FML, we have had a big demand for weekend soccer and not able to find anyone to do the weekend, Heidi & Ashley stepped up and agreed to run the programs , 9am, 10am & 11am on Saturdays (families are thrilled) all 3 are booked with 16 kids in each and they all have waitlists. Pickle ball interest has doubled in the gym, new program offered for age 50 & up for First thro disc golf, working with home school kids to get a Science program just for their group, our 1st event the Teddy Bear picnic was scheduled to run on 8/17 but there was rain so we had to run it on 8/18 and many people weren't able to make that day but we still had a great turn out. Lillian Hartman recommended to print out the brochure and give it to the senior center for them to put it in their newsletter which goes out the end of October.

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Nancy stated she wanted to say she is just happy to come to work as the moral is wonderful.

Lillian Hartman new Public Service Director- introduced herself as she came in at 7:37pm stating that she oversees The Dir of Elder Services, and Youth Services at the moment and also will assist in Veterans, Clerk, & Parks & Recreation to help each other out and work closely together.

LUC: Rita said just waiting to get the numbers in, worked with Hillview/ Parks & Rec, we have a liaison (Rita) for all, potentially use the \$\$ for LUC & Friends of to help with the parks up keep to get things done.

FONRPR: Pat went over the BBQ, we will be paying for the walk of fame \$800, Gazebo to be painted \$2500, totaling \$3300. Disney breakfast on hold for now, need to figure out the wine & food if it can be done, if so it will be a lot smaller than previous years, looks as if for 2023 we will have (4) BBQ'S, 2 in June & 2 in July , approved to buy a new grill as well.

Intergeneration Center: Marty stated that Abby had said the surveys will go out with the tax bills and the end date will be 10/15/22. After 2 weeks survey monkey will tally all of them up. Rita wants to meet with Lillian so she understands what LUC/ Parks & Rec does.

Next Meeting Date: November 7, 2022 at Town Hall Room 5 @ 7PM

Adjournment: @ 7:52 PM

(SC) Made a motion to adjourn @ 7:52 PM

(PF) Second the motion.

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