

BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION PUBLIC MEETING

Oct. 16, 2019

Present: Bill Vosburgh, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Chris Shea, Steve Corbin, Kyle Thibeault, Linda Racicot, Nick O'Connor

Absent: Tilo Schiffer

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes from meeting Sept. 18, 2019 were reviewed. Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes from the Sept. meeting, *Steve seconded, motion passed 4-0-0.*

OLD BUSINESS

A Friends of the Rec discussion was put on hold until Wilbur is able to attend a meeting.

Kyle informed the Committee that the State did not approve the Parc grant. He explained that Belchertown did not qualify primarily due to the injustice population. Belchertown was unable to generate any points in four categories which unfortunately led to a low score. Nick met with Senator Lessors aid who confirmed 75K earmarked for the complex area has been transferred into an account. It was discussed amongst the Committee to submit a CPC grant to begin the project with two basketball courts. It was mentioned that the splash park would not generate interest and should not be the priority. Looking at the design Kyle recommended putting two courts side by side which would be more cost efficient.

A portion of the disc golf grant money was spent on a course design for the Piper Farms location. With a location change to Constantino, it was recommended to return the remainder of the grant money to the CPA Committee and reapply for a new CPC grant at the Constantino location. Nick said he will touch base with Erica, (Conservation) to discuss the wetlands. Kyle was asked to contact Pete for a new design as well as confirm a date that Pathfinder School will remove the underbrush and trees.

LIASON

Nick suggested a Belchertown Community Day at the high school for basketball grades k-12. Kyle explained that the 3/4 grade level has an end of the season jamboree, the suburban teams currently have a one day tournament at the high school and every other division has an end of the season tournament. This is something that can be looked into for the future.

With a new sign posted at the skate park, skate at your own risk, the Skate Park Committee will be disbanding. It was mentioned that Skate Park Committee members, Michelle and Sarah would still like to be involved with fund raising. Nick asked if any issues arise with the skate park, could the public report the issues to the Recreation Committee. The Rec Committee felt there is no association between the Recreation Dept. and the Skate Park therefore the Recreation Committee would prefer not to handle any skate park conversations.

Nick mentioned that the community has requested that the town consider an ice skating rink this winter and asked if the Recreation Committee has suggestions for a location. The Recreation Committee agreed the town common would be the best location and would send a recommendation letter to the Selectmen. It was suggested to reach out to the Cultural Council as they have had several events on the town common and ask for their assistance. Linda will follow up with the Cultural Council and Nick was going to ask the Fire Dept. for their assistance.

Nick mentioned there may be an opportunity to benefit disc golf at a fund raising event. He will provide more information at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve attended the CPA Committee meeting. The CPA Committee has concerns regarding the qualifications for submitting applications. Steve recommended that the Dept. reapply for a disc golf grant proposing the new location, Constantino.

Steve had a conversation with Chris Fay, Trainer & Partnership Manager, Positive Coaching Alliance. He has asked that it be added to the agenda to discuss next meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Kyle explained that the pool is closed for repair. He explained there was a section of pipe that leaked. It was replaced and a new leak appeared. Along with the leak, the circulation pump also needs to be replaced. The school informed Kyle the pool is to remain closed due to safety reasons. The parts were ordered and will be in next week. The Rec Dept. will be extending pool passes for the length of time it is closed. MJ, the aquatics coordinator will be contacting Ludlow Boys & Girls Club and the Amherst pool to inquire about a pool rental for our swim team.

Kyle was asked how much CHCS charges the Recreation Department managing the pool. Kyle said it is a formula (25% of the building) and would bring the document to next month's meeting.

Suburban/CYO tryouts will be held the weekend of Oct. 19/20. Kyle said he would not be attending evaluations and explained Elms College men & women's basketball coaches will be handling evaluations.

POLICY CHANGE

Add "we reserve the right to consider a change in time for tryouts." This policy will allow the Recreation Dept. to adjust how many participants will tryout at a time based on the sign ups.

Section 4f, b- Each team will have an equal number of players based off of the number of participants (with a minimum roster of 8 players) has been added.

Section 4j - Players selected and accepted a position on a suburban/CYO team is ineligible to register for the Recreational League – has been added.

Section Suburban Tryout,

5. The recreation department will hire an outside evaluator to run tryouts.
 - a) The recreation director and program coordinator will be at tryouts to oversee the process
 - b) Each participant must have a signed waiver before stepping on the court.
 - c) Participants will be assigned a number and asked to choose a position they have played or request to play
 - d) At the end of tryouts the evaluator will provide the Director the ranking of all players from number one to the last number of participants trying out for each specific age group.
 - e) The evaluator will determine if a player's skill is competitive travel or a recreational player.
6. Within 1 week of the last tryout date, a panel will meet to review the evaluator rankings and determine who will be placed on which team. The panel will consist of:

- a) Recreation Director
 - b) Program Coordinator
 - c) Recreation Committee member
 - d) Two Individuals not involved with the age group who have basketball knowledge
7. The top ranking players in numerical order consisting of centers, guards and forwards will be placed on the A suburban team. (Maximum of 11 players per team taking into consideration for the number of players injured not being able to participate in tryouts)
 8. If a B-team is selected within the same division, the next highest scores will be placed on the B-team. (Maximum of 11 players)
 9. If a CYO team is selected within the same division, the next highest scores will be placed on the CYO team. (Maximum of 11 players)

Next Recreation Committee meeting is Wednesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn. *Chris seconded, motion passed 4-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m.