

**WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Public Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**Town Hall Council Chambers**  
**March 5, 2018, Monday**

Present: Jane Hackett, Chairman  
Michael Molisse, Vice Chairman  
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor  
Arthur Mathews, Councilor  
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor  
Steve Reilly, Recreation Director  
Brian Kowalski, Program Director  
John MacLeod, Asset Management Director

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Hackett called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. This is a continuation of a review begun two weeks ago. Steve Reilly and John MacLeod were invited to the table to review the construction component, permitting and use, and then a review of the summer programs. Chairman Hackett thanked the various members from youth organizations who were present. She's received many emails and phone calls with questions, comments and reminded the public that is not a public hearing forum. The administration will hold a meeting in 2 weeks to discuss concerns regarding access and fees.

**Update on Park Construction and Permitting- Mayor Hedlund and Staff**

Steve Reilly and John MacLeod were invited to the table to review the construction component, permitting and use, then a review of the summer programs.

Construction aspect was wrapped up in the last meeting. The directors continued the power point :

- Field Permits
  - Application process
  - Fees assignment
    - Organization/use
    - Tax status
    - Number of fields requested
    - Hourly
    - Seasonal
  - Rate schedule
    - Residents
    - Non-resident (space permitting)
- Previous and prior and proposed Previous and prior and proposed
  - Turf Fields
  - Grass Fields

- Graph of field usage by hours, by user group type. Schools are utilizing most, so there isn't as much opportunity for outside groups. They hosted tournaments in November and over the last and next 3 weekends are hosting others. Some of the proposals are estimates and will be more clearly defined as the spring season gets closer.

○

Current typical weekly schedule was reviewed for Legion, Lovell, Weymouth High, Union Point and Libbey Fields. Usage by hours by user group type from FY16 FY17 and projections for FY18 were reviewed. They have eliminated the cost of an additional half hour before and after a rental for custodial staff. There has been a significant increase in rentals for in-town and out of town groups. Applying hourly rates are not equitable across sports. There was discussion with user groups regarding user fees. Revenue opportunities differ depending on which groups use the fields. They have discussed the need for a review and change of fees for grass fields as well, now that the fields have been improved. The town demonstrated a commitment to the fields; there needs to be a plan for producing revenue to contribute to maintenance and upkeep by increasing fees. This proposal includes rental fees and user fees. A tiered approach should be considered.

Chairman Hackett noted that the user groups are aware that an increase is coming, but judging by the feedback, they welcome the changes. Mr. Reilly noted that the scheduling is done by reaching out to the in-town user groups first. So far, they have been able to meet their needs and then opened it to outside use. There is a lot of interest and they will not be able to meet all of the outside needs.

Mr. Reilly showed a snapshot of typical week for use at a turf field. They reached out to all in-town user groups first; successful so far in 100%; they opened it up to the high school and then outreached to outside groups. There are not a lot of times remaining once they fill the school and town spots.

Questions brought up for the review:

- Identify each park or field that generated rental income for the town in the two fiscal years
- List the total rental fees, by park or field that were billed in each of the years
- List the organizations that rented each facility and the amount they paid
- Identify to what fund and account these fees were booked
- List for each park or field what these monies were used for; i.e. some type of improvement or maintenance for said Park/Field
- Provide a rental fee schedule which states what the cost is to rent a particular park or field in FY2018 and one for FY2017

Mr. Reilly noted most were responded to during the presentation and then reviewed the revenue and expense report. Reports are run through the MyRec program and then receipts are booked through MUNIS revolving account. There is a lag between the two

systems but little difference. He reviewed the expenses charged against it; most are maintenance needs or equipment needs.

Councilor DiFazio suggested the Town Auditor review the accounts and report back to the Council with a quarterly report. He also reported that the recent organized event at Lovell Field clearly indicated there is not enough parking. The question was posed if they could redirect to the municipal lot across the street? Mr. MacLeod responded that the administration is in preliminary discussions with the MBTA to use the Greenbush T lot on weekends, with access via a pedestrian walkway over the herring run (conceptual plans are done) and redirection of traffic round the circle at Pingree. Conservation restraints eliminated a number of parking spaces and limit the number of spots around the buffer zone.

Chairman Hackett reported that they must understand they received a lot of feedback from participants in sports. Sometimes there is a disconnect between organizations and parents over the expectation of usage. The boards of directors need to let their parents know. She noted the FY17 Weymouth High School field use was mainly school or in-town use. In total for the three years, they received \$47,935 from all user groups. They gave back 12,000 to schools. This was strictly for the cost of the facility- no half hour before and after was included. The balance remains in the account for future maintenance / replacement and heavy-duty turf grooming. The balance remains with recreation accounts; not hall rental. She noted for Legion it was different and this is for people watching at home who believe it is over-rented. Schools are using these. They're only rented 54% of the time that it's available at the high school and 44% for Legion. If there are in-town user groups who want to use the fields, they need to reach out- time is available.

Chairman Hackett thanked them for the great job presenting and she noted that everyone needs to be patient. Since 2015 - \$300,000 in revenue was received from Libbey and the high school and \$80,000 was expended. The balance- \$263,000 does not come through Town Council for authorization. The administration is considering an enterprise account for review by Town Council each year.

Councilor Lacey asked about the friction over proposed fees; the current and future proposed rates are appropriate and fair. What is missing? Mr. Reilly responded that there are some things that need to be worked through. Expenses for all programs have increased (insurance/equipment). There is opportunity to work with the groups and utilize field sharing. Councilor Lacey noted that in- town groups are prioritized and outside groups are paying a premium. Mr. MacLeod responded that the Mayor was adamant that the department's plan would have enough capital to cover costs for maintenance and replacement schedules. The enterprise fund is the next step in the process.

Councilor Lacey noted that as long as in -town is priority, then it's a good start. Chairman Hackett noted that some of the construction is ahead of schedule. The youth organizations had already established rates for this year's programs, so they are having a difficult transition year.

### **Brief Overview of Summer Program-Steve Reilly, Recreation Director**

Mr. Reilly introduced Brian Kowalski, Program Director, who gave a brief overview of the summer programs. They run from June to August. Registration for residents began March 1 and for non-residents on March 15. He reviewed the programs, the staff and the locations of programs. This is the third year for a licensed day camp with the state, so it can accept vouchers from the state. There is also a special needs program.

Chairman Hackett noted that this is an amazing opportunity for so many families. It's a wonderful part of Weymouth.

Andrew Hultin provided more detail on the adventure programs. Great Esker Day will continue and will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup> this year. He reviewed the programs. A grant will help offset some of the costs. A universal trail system is underway to provide an online access to the system. They also applied for another grant to continue the Back River Trail system.

Ryan MacLeod reviewed the remaining programs, that includes the Exceptional program, Camp WeyFun, Sprouts which has moved to the Wessagusset campus while the new library is under construction. The Lane Beach program is relocating from Lane to Wessagusset Beach. Residents can rent equipment with a seasonal pass. Vacation camp will be held at Pingree School. Leaders in training programs will continue at all sites.

Councilor Lacey noted that it's great to see young adults doing great work with younger kids.

### **Committee Discussion and Recreational Issues**

Chairman Hackett noted that she and Councilor Mathews have been approached about establishing a freshman hockey team. It has been referred to the school department. She serves on the Hall Rental Committee and they will review the rental of gyms.

Chairman Hackett thanked all the attendees.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:01 PM, there being no further business, a Motion was made by Vice Chairman Molise to Adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Lacey. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker, Recording Secretary.

Approved by Jane Hackett as Chair of the Public Parks and Recreation Committee.  
Voted unanimously on 2 April 2018