

# MINUTES

## Westfield Recreation Commission

February 7, 2022, 7:30pm

- OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT
- ROLL CALL - all present
- FLAG SALUTE
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES, June 10, 2021, meeting - Amy motion, Ron seconded. All approved
- COMMISSION CHAIR - Jenn Gilman - Trail maintenance trainer was approved last year. Don Bogardus has reached out to 8-10 leads but a lot have retired or have decided to volunteer with the Appalachian trail and their big project. He has JORBA on speed dial.
- PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING - Andrew Stilluffsen 667 Fourth Avenue. Looking for an update about the trails and hiring professional trail builder. If nothing has been done then please reconsider JORBA.
- TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT - Scott Katz - Budget season! Commend Amy, Heather & Linda for the input and production of the financial reports.
- BOARD of EDUCATION LIAISON REPORT - Mike Bielen - EIS is still in process. Lew Kimball is reaching out to the BOE for the Elm St. field by developing into a soccer field with irrigation and maintenance. Ron asked about the tennis courts at Elm St.
- DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Don Bogardus - starting to ramp up in the office, schools are available for playground camp. Working on getting that up and running. Going to hire 3 people that worked with Lauren on playground camp. Heather is busy with the pool.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **POOL: Tony Stewart Chair/ Heather Re** - 2 recommendations to increase membership fees \$5 per person minimum wage, products. \$99 fee for birthday parties. Fee will include staff set up/ clean up, refrigeration & reserved seating. 3 tables will be purchased for the parties. Pool committee has recommended that there be an addition of early morning lap swim. Pool committee will discuss further. Interest packets will be mailed out shortly.
- **PARKS - Monica Bergin** - Had our first committee meeting, all parks now have a liaison. Going to visit the parks and come up with a plan.
- **FIELDS: Russ Howell** - MEMORIAL - GSLW JOINT INVESTMENT

- o Co-investments we approved in December are progressing

- § Dugout covers

- § Temporary/removeable outfield fencing

- Drainage improvements

#### EDISON MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS PROPOSAL - UPDATE

- o Still awaiting final submission by Spiezle of the parking assessment
- o Since last Rec Comm meeting, Jim Gildea, Don Bogardus and I reviewed an interim draft and we asked for a structural change in the report to break it into daytime and nighttime/lit usage... expect to have final draft next week
- o Based on what we reviewed, I can say that it confirms that with smart use policies, we would be able to make full use of the field capacity while effectively managing parking capacity.
- o Have had several discussions with council members... and we've been asked to further refine our data and presentation of the existing field usage, which is based on the allocation data that the Recreation Department maintains. That is currently work-in-progress.
- o We are also in the process of evaluating the excellent and detailed input provided to Town Council by resident Chris Zanelli, which looked at market based comparisons of installation and maintenance costs of artificial turf vs natural grass... and we are refining that analysis with actual build-out estimates from this proposed project and actuals based on Kehler turf replacement in 2019 and Houlihan-Sid Fay maintenance actuals... then bumping those costs up against playable hours provided by the two surfaces to get a proper cost comparison based on cost/playable hour. That too is work in progress.
- o We will be having our next meeting with the Neighborhood Advisory Group on February 23.

Jeff Perrella asked about the path going around Memorial could it be put in at the same time the drainage will be worked on, Russ Howell responded not an economy of scale at this time

- **FINANCE: Amy Berman** - copies of trust account & user fees build about \$100,000 in each year. Looking for definitions for use of money from Scott Olsen & Jim Gildea.
- **PROGRAMS: Jeff Perrella/Linda Johnson** - Programs continue to grow, hat s off to Linda for all the great work! Winter are up and running 315 participants working on

spring calendar begins at the end of March. Playground at all 6 elementary schools. Tai Chi, Zumba & Senior Gold are all sell outs! Transportation is up and running on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday for shopping and medical appointments. New film class coming this summer along with a 15-hour CSI camp.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Tennis/Pickleball Court Reservations - Don Bogardus waiting to hear about rules from the Parks committee. The Recreation commission will notify the residents by email, The Mayors message, social media, etc. If reservation system works for tennis/pickleball maybe roll out for batting cages. Up for discussion for Parks committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Tennis/Pickleball Court rules

Refund fee - People are signing up for programs, and then cancelling. If it's in the same month, it's not bad but if it goes into another month then it creates an issue. It's a lot of work for the office. This may create an issue for programs. Should it be a percentage of the cost of the program or a flat fee. Ron says no convenience fee unless there is another option to pay besides credit cards.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

All Correspondences were e-mailed to the Commission Members

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Personnel - Don Bogardus is going to retire at the end of 2022.

Meeting adjourned.

## **Dates to Remember:**

*Scheduled Commission Meetings - 7:30pm*

*Monday, March 14, 2022*

*Monday, April 4, 2022*

*Monday, May 2, 2022*

*Monday, June 6, 2022*

*Monday, July 11, 2022*

*Monday, September 12, 2022*

*Monday, October 3, 2022*

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

*Monday, December 5, 2022*