



Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on Wednesday, January 13th, 2021
via Zoom conference call - 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee Present

Regular Members

Present

- Richard McCarthy, Chairperson
- Joseph Grant, Vice-Chairperson

Not Present

William Buckley
Annelise Fair
Michael McGrath

Associate Members

- Lorraine Dundon*
- Brad Hickey
- Jeffrey Hutnick
- Douglas Shea

** Per Article VI, §B of the Recreation Committee Policies & Procedures - due to the absence of a quorum, Ms. Dundon was assigned voting power by Chairperson McCarthy.*

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

Call to Order

Chairperson McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Director's Report

Department Update

- Saturday Basketball

Director Croak gave a brief overview of the Saturday Basketball program that started up this past weekend. Recreation Coordinator, Rich Lamoury, has continued to build off of the model that was used for the Saturday Soccer program that took place in the fall. Due to COVID-19 health & safety guidelines, limited space was available for this program. Volunteer parent coaches were utilized once again, and curriculum weekly

videos continue to be sent out. Unfortunately, each hour has an extremely large waitlist, due to the large demand. With limited gym space available, it's difficult to expand the program. Director Croak said that the Department will continue to reassess ongoing health regulations when coordinating Session 2.

- **Winter Programming**

Director Croak gave an overview of programming that is taking place for the remainder of the winter. The Department is very pleased with attendance for many of the virtual programs, and Director Croak mentioned that some strategies and tactics that were used may translate well as the Department transitions back to normal structure of programming in the future. As mentioned in previous meetings, Director Croak stated that the Department was limited with the amount of in-person programming that can take place, as Blackburn Hall is being used as the remote learning location for the School Department. Once the weather warms up, the Department will get more creative with utilizing outdoor space for additional programming.

- **New Website**

Director Croak briefed the Committee on the new website that has been deployed. The Department is still working with Technical Support to sort through some bugs that have come up during the process.

Additionally, Director Croak noted that the Department has added an unobtrusive question during the checkout process that makes people aware of the *Smiling Eyes* financial assistance program, and asks if they'd like to make a donation. In just the past two weeks, Director Croak is proud to report that just shy of \$200 has been received in private donations. He anticipates this to continue in the future, and looks forward for the Department to continue to provide recreation programming for *all* children, regardless of their financial situation.

Old Business

Athletic Fields

- **Spring Field Permit Applications**

Field Permit Applications will be sent out shortly to all Walpole Youth Sports Organizations. Groups will then have approximately one month to return the

applications for spring usage. Director Croak stated that it will take a few weeks to process everything, and will then issue permits in late-March for the spring season which begins on April 1st.

- **South Walpole Community Athletic Complex**

Director Croak gave his ongoing update on the South Walpole Community Athletic Complex. There have been a handful of rentals that have taken place, including a private men's group that is currently using one of the turf fields on Wednesday nights. Walpole Youth Soccer has inquired about the details in painting the lines up at the field complex. Ongoing discussions are taking place with Town Administration and pertinent departments on the best course of action moving forward.

New Business

- N/A

Minutes

- On a motion made by Vice-Chairperson Grant, seconded by Ms. Dundon, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from the November 18th, 2020 meeting.

Public Comment

- Chairperson McCarthy notified members of the Committee that former Recreation Committee member, Frank Brown, passed away.

Various members of the Committee expressed their sympathy and kind words were spoken about Frank's dedication to not only the Committee, but the Town of Walpole itself. Chairperson McCarthy requested a moment of silence in memory of Frank.

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Vice-Chairperson Grant, seconded by Ms. Dundon, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to adjourn at 6:22 p.m.