



**Walpole Recreation Committee  
Meeting Held on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
via Zoom Conference Call - 6:00 p.m**

**Recreation Committee Present**

***Regular Members***

Present

- Joseph Grant, *Chairperson*
- William Buckley, *Vice-Chairperson*
- Richard McCarthy

Not Present

Annelise Fair  
Michael McGrath

***Associate Members***

Present

- Lorraine Dundon
- Brad Hickey
- Douglas Shea

Not Present

Jeffrey Hutnick

**Staff Present**

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Grant called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Director's Report**

***A. Department Update***

- Pandemaniacs Summer Program

This year's summer program, *Pandemaniacs*, wrapped up for the season last Friday. Each week was at full capacity for the most part, and despite the requirements and adapted program structure, things went about as smoothly as possible. There were numerous elements of the planning phase that needed to change this year, that actually ended up working out very well. Consistent staffing, limiting registration for participants to weekly options only, etc. The Department will be instituting some of these changes into their program structure in the future. Director Croak commended the entire staff including the Program Directors, Judy Auditore, Kristen Dwyer and David Moser as they did a fantastic job taking everything in stride to offer a safe and fun summer for everybody that participated.

- Pools

Pools close for the season on Friday, August 21. From a planning standpoint, Director Croak mentioned that everything went as smoothly as possible, despite the restrictions. The staff implemented all of the precautions that were set in place, and numerous customers throughout the summer commented on how well the system worked to make the pools a safe option this summer.

However, Director Croak noted that attendance was not as high as the Department would have liked it to be. This seems to be the case in many communities that decided to open their facilities this summer. About halfway through the summer, the price was reduced a bit to see if there would be an increase in attendance. With that drop in price, attendance would have needed to double, but the Department, unfortunately, barely noticed an increase. Director Croak said that he felt as if many people just weren't ready to venture out and visit this summer. If circumstances do not change in the future with regard to COVID-19, more drastic changes will need to be made if the pools are to remain open.

- Saturday Soccer

Registration has opened up for the Saturday Soccer program that starts up in mid-September. As is the case with many of the programs over the past six months, the Department has adjusted the structure of the program in order to adhere to the State guidelines that were issued. As guidelines continue to change, Director Croak is confident that the programming plan can be adjusted, as needed.

- Walpole Public Schools Remote Learning

With discussions of a potential hybrid model taking place this upcoming school year, there are talks that Blackburn Hall may be used as a remote learning location for students who would require supervision during the week. In the event that this does, in fact, take place, Blackburn Hall would be used for this program. The Recreation Department would collect an hourly rental fee from the School Department, and all programming and rentals would be suspended until the conclusion of the school year. As discussions continue, more information will be known in the upcoming weeks.

## **New Business**

### ***A. Fall 2020 Field Permit Fees***

- Chairperson Grant proposed a temporary amendment to the current fee structure, in the event that the turf fields at the new Route 1A Field Complex are available for use this fall. A proposed one-time \$500 fee for each user group that wishes to use one of the turf fields before the end of the year. Additionally, private rentals would be charged a \$200 per hour fee for use of the turf field.
- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the temporary amendments to the field permit fees for the fall 2020 season.

## **Old Business**

- N/A

## **Minutes**

- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes from June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### **Public Comment**

- N/A

#### **Adjournment**

- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, the Committee voted 3-0-0 to adjourn at 6:52 p.m..