



**Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on Wednesday, September 9th, 2020
via Zoom conference call - 6:00 p.m.**

Recreation Committee Present

Regular Members

- Joe Grant, *Chairperson*
- William Buckley, *Vice-Chairperson*
- Annelise Fair
- Richard McCarthy
- Michael McGrath

Associate Members

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

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

Call to Order

Chairperson Grant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Director's Report

A. Department Update

Fall Programming

Director Croak notified the Committee that Blackburn Hall will be utilized as a remote learning location for Walpole Public Schools this school year. The Department will be collecting a rental fee for usage of the building. For this reason, fall program offerings will be limited for customers for this fall. The department will be offering the following programs:

- BLAST Babysitting Course
- CPR/AED & First-Aid Training
- Home Alone Safety

- Fall Field Hockey
- Music Classes
- Skating Lessons
- Tai Chi
- Tennis Lessons

Director Croak mentioned that the Recreation Department is partnering up with *Skyhawks* to offer some outdoor sports programming (toddler football, golf, and weekday soccer). Additionally, the Department is currently working with Walpole Youth Football and their coaches to offer some clinics that focus on individual and socially-distanced group activities (non-contact workouts, aerobic conditioning, individual skill work, and drills).

- Saturday Soccer

Director Croak noted that with the help of Assistant Director, Arielle Carney, Recreation Coordinator, Rich Lamoury has done a great job putting together a plan to move forward with our Saturday Soccer program. Given the guidelines and restrictions that are in place, the Department has scaled back on the total number of kids that can be on each field during any given time. Additionally, the Department has tightened up their weekly structure a bit in order to adhere to any guidelines that have been issued. The Department will be relying heavily on parent coaches for this program. Rich has created weekly lesson plans for each coach to utilize throughout the season, and has also scheduled an in-person training for parent coaches this weekend. In addition to the weekly lessons plans, weekly videos will be provided for coaches to make sure they're appropriately prepared for the upcoming weekend session. The idea is to perfect the framework and structure with the fall soccer program, and continue using that model for the department's other large-scale sports programs throughout the year.

- Drive-in Movie

The final "Drive-in Movie" night (*Onward*) is scheduled for this Friday, September 11th, and is completely sold out. Arielle has done an excellent job pivoting from the Department's outdoor movie nights that typically take place throughout the summer.

Old Business

A. Fall 2020 Field Permit Fees

- Chairperson Grant explained to the Committee that due to his role on the board for Walpole Youth Football, he would like the Committee to re-vote the temporary Field Permit Fees that were voted upon at the Committee's previous meeting, in order to avoid any conflicts of interest.
- On a motion made by Richard McCarthy, seconded by Michael McGrath, the Committee voted 4-0-1 to approve the temporary fall 2020 Field Permit Fees.

New Business

A. Field Permit Fee Restructure Discussion

- Director Croak explained to the Committee that as construction is winding down on the new fields, the Committee should explore a restructure of the fees that are collected for field permits. The new fees would be in effect for the Spring 2021 season. Whether the Committee wishes that the fees be based on an hourly rate or stay as a “per player” rate, Director Croak mentioned that additional funds need to be put aside for replacement of the new turf fields, similar to how a percentage of the field permit fees are currently put aside for the replacement of the turf at Turco Field.

Director Croak outlined the current fee structure that charges \$25 per player for youth organizations and talked about some of the pros and cons of making no change. An alternative method of collecting fees would be to charge an hourly rate. Director Croak briefly explained the methodology that he plans to implement in order to find what a fair and equitable hourly rate would be for each field. He did note that if an hourly rate were put in place, there could be some issues keeping accurate records when rainouts and schedule changes occur. Additionally, the new hourly fees could negatively affect certain groups with regard to their annual permit fees, based on historical usage. Director Croak mentioned that the primary focus would be to minimize any negative financial effect on groups as much as possible.

Mr. McGrath and Mr. Hickey noted that they feel as though an hourly rate is the best course of action at this point, in order to more accurately track and manage field requests, in addition to maximizing field usage. Mr. Hickey cautioned to avoid an excess of third-party rentals that could monopolize field usage. Mr. Shea agreed with an hourly fee structure and stated that perhaps usage of lights could be built into the field fee.

Director Croak to provide a draft version of an hourly field structure to the Committee for review and commentary at a future meeting.

B. Committee Reorganization

- On a motion made by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, seconded by Chairperson Grant, the Committee voted 5-0-0 to nominate Richard McCarthy as Chairperson.
- On a motion made by Vice-Chairperson Buckley, seconded by Mr. McGrath, the Committee voted 5-0-0 to nominate Joe Grant as Vice-Chairperson.

Minutes

- On a motion made by Vice-Chairperson Grant, seconded by Mr. Buckley, the Committee voted 4-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes from the August 19th, 2020 meeting.

Public Comment

- N/A

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Grant, the Committee voted 5-0-0 to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.