



Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on Wednesday, May 25th, 2021
via Zoom conference call - 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee Present

Regular Members

Present

- Richard McCarthy, *Chair*
- Joseph Grant, *Vice-Chair*
- William Buckley
- Michael McGrath

Not Present

Annelise Fair

Associate Members

Present

- Lorraine Dundon
- Brad Hickey
- Jeff Hutnick

Not Present

Doug Shea

Staff Present

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

Call to Order

Chairperson McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

New Business

Committee Reorganization

- On a motion made by Chairperson McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Buckley, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to name Joseph Grant as new Chair.
- On a motion made by Chairperson Grant, seconded by Mr. Buckley, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to name Richard McCarthy as new Vice-Chair.

Athletic Fields

- Signage Policy

With the usage of the South Walpole Community Athletic Complex, Director Croak anticipates an increase in the requests from organizations to hang signs during competitions. Director Croak has been charged with the task of coming up with a formal policy that would serve as a mechanism to allow such requests to occur. Some discussion occurred with regard to the formal policy. Final approval of the policy will be approved by the Select Board at an upcoming meeting.

Director's Report

Department Update

- Summer Programming

Director Croak mentioned that Recreation Coordinator Rich Lamoury has been hard at work coordinating with Walpole High School Boys Varsity Coach, Oliver Vil to reinvent the Department's **summer basketball** program offerings. There will be a traditional summer clinic for both boys and girls, which will be held at Johnson Middle School this summer. The second program is more of a "league" for grades 4 - 8, which will take place on Monday afternoons/nights under the lights at the High School. The Department's **Summer Field Hockey Clinic** with Varsity Field Hockey coach, Jen Quinn, is back. This program will run the second week of July. Director Croak noted that registration is about 75% full at this point. Registration for the fall field hockey program has opened, and each team, with the exception of the 5th & 6th grade team, has filled. Director Croak stated that the department was able to add additional teams to multiple age groups in order to accommodate some of the previous waitlist participants. Director Croak mentioned that both weeks of the **Junior Police Academy** and all weeks of the Department's **Summer Tennis Lessons** have filled. Additionally, all weeks for **Summer on Stone** are completely full. Director Croak mentioned that while many COVID regulations were lifted recently, there are still regulations that must be adhered to for summer recreation programming. For this reason, the Department is unable to accommodate waitlist individuals at this time.

- Pools

Director Croak announced that the Department will be moving forward with full capacity at the pools this year. There have been some minor changes that were made to the daily schedule. Due to the popularity of lap swim last year, there was a need to separate Lap Swimming from the Senior Swim portion of the day. Additionally, Swimming Lessons will be, once again, offered this summer. In order to accommodate Lap Swimming, lessons will now be held at South Pool. Public swim hours at South Pool will be reduced in order to accommodate the location change of Swimming Lessons. Director Croak noted that while there may be some negative feedback from the public, by combining public swim hours to just Center Pool, the Department is able to maximize our staffing and payroll costs more efficiently. Additionally, the schedule changes will

allow the Department to add more Swimming Lesson time blocks that haven't been offered previously. There will also be the opportunity to rent out South Pool for parties during a time that has never been available before. Rentals have a much higher profit margin and could help the Department recoup some of lost revenue last year, due to the pandemic. South Pool will remain open at the end of the day when Center Pool closes. The Department will be able to continue to offer public swimming to the public for 10 hours, while limiting payroll and increasing revenue. Director Croak stated that the Department will reassess at the end of the season and continue to adjust and adapt based on what's best for the department.

- **Field Permits**

The Spring Season for Field Permits ends on June 13th. Director Croak stated that it was an extremely successful first season using the new hourly fee structure. Scheduling Turco Field was difficult, due to the schedule changes from the "Fall 2" High School season and trying to allot time for athletes of all levels.

Director Croak mentioned, effective for the summer season, fees associated with the use of athletic lights will be post-billed at the conclusion of each season.

Old Business

- N/A

Minutes

- On a motion made by Vice-Chair McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Buckley, the Committee voted 3-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes from the March 17th, 2021 meeting.

Public Comment

- N/A

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Vice-Chair McCarthy, seconded by Mr. McGrath, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.