



Walpole Recreation Committee
Meeting Held on Wednesday, December 12th, 2018
Blackburn Hall - 5:30 p.m.
30 Stone Street - Walpole, MA 02081

Recreation Committee

Regular Members

Present

- Joe Grant, *Chairman*
- Bill Buckley, *Vice Chairman**
- Richard McCarthy**
- Annelise Fair

*arrived at 6:21 p.m.

**arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Not Present

Michael McGrath

Associate Members

Present

- Jeff Hutnick
- Lorraine Dundon

Not Present

Robert Taglienti

Staff

- Brendan Croak, *Recreation Director*

Call to Order

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

In the absence of a quorum, Chairman Grant granted Mr. Hutnick voting power, per the Recreation Committee Policies and Procedures, in order to call the meeting to order. Voting power was removed from Mr. Hutnick at 6:06 p.m., upon the arrival of Mr. McCarthy.

Director's Report

Winter Registration

- The Director updated the Committee on the status of winter registration. He noted that program registrations are generally in line with where they historically have been for this time of year. Revenue received from summer Driver's Education programming and an outstanding fall field permit will increase current revenue numbers, to a level that is above-average once the Director's monthly reconciliation of the budget is complete.

Saturday Basketball

- The Department's Saturday Basketball program began last weekend. Revenue is pretty even with last year's program. Once Session 1 ends, Director Croak anticipates that registration for Session 2 will increase.

Hourly Wage Schedule

- Director Croak let the Committee know that changes will be made to the hourly wage schedule for the seasonal staff. On January 1, 2019 minimum wage is increasing to \$12.00 per hour, and the department will be adjusting the existing schedule accordingly. Director Croak stated that similar adjustments will be made on an annual-basis to match the rise in minimum wage at the state-level. Without these adjustments, the department is in danger of losing existing staff to other opportunities, in addition to missing out on qualified prospective employees.

Director Croak commented that while the minimum wage is increasing on January 1, 2019, the changes to the wage schedule for the department will not take effect until July 1, 2019. This effective date is in line with other wage schedule changes in town.

Teen Dances

- Chairman Grant mentioned the lack of attendance for the previous 7th & 8th Grade Dance that took place recently. Director Croak acknowledged the lack of attendance and assured the committee that there are ongoing efforts in the department to continuously explore options that will increase attendance for middle school activities. Director Croak mentioned that this is an issue that many communities are facing when programming for this age group, due to the change in culture and behavioral habits of teenagers.

New Business

- None

Old Business

A. Recreation Committee Rules and Regulations

- There was some discussion regarding the Recreation Committee Rules and Regulations prior to the vote taking place, and the minor changes that are needed.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the Recreation Committee Policies and Procedures.

B. Route 1A Fields Project

- There was some discussion regarding the Route 1A Fields Project presentation that took place last night, Tuesday, December 11th, 2018. Chairman Grant, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Hutnick, and Director Croak were all present at the meeting, and noted that the conversation and feedback was mostly positive in nature.

C. Smiling Eyes

- Director Croak mentioned that discussions are underway in the department to make changes to the Smiling Eyes program. These changes are intended to increase the amount of children that the scholarship helps throughout the year, while increasing the amount of programming that these children are able to participate in. In addition, these changes will streamline the maintenance of the scholarship program on a day-to-day basis.

Director Croak mentioned that he will be meeting with Debi Bering, who is a board member for the Friends of St. Patrick in the near future. The outcome of this meeting will dictate the direction to further any restructuring that takes place.

Public Comment

- None

Minutes

- On a motion made by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Ms. Fair, the Committee voted 3-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes from the November 14th meeting.

Adjournment

- On a motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Vice Chairman Buckley, the Committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.