



OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Board Meeting: March 2, 2021
LWVM Observer Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Chip Osborne. All members were present. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Hydration Stations

Peter James, Superintendent, brought a proposal (with pictures) to order hydration stations. The wall mounted ones would cost \$2200 and the freestanding one with the dog bowl would cost \$4170, and there would be an 8 to 10 week delivery time. The Board decided that they would like to see them in person to make sure they are durable enough and ADA compliant. They will be installed at Crocker Park, Gatchell's, Stramski's and Seaside. Peter has shown the proposal to Sustainable Marblehead, and they have approved them.

Wi Fi Upgrade

The wi-fi coverage at the Community Center is inadequate. Peter has consulted with the IT company the town uses, Integrated IT. They propose to rewire the building for a cost of \$10,000 to be shared with the Council on Aging. The annual cost of \$1300 would change to \$400 a year which would eventually prove cost effective. The proposal was approved.

SUP container

After a lengthy discussion about adding a 10x10 container for the SUP program, it was decided to postpone the decision until the next meeting when more will be known about changing covid protocols, and an overall plan for the beautification of Riverhead Beach will be discussed.

Memorial Bench policy

It was suggested to have a moratorium on new memorial benches until the old policy can be updated. Spots for benches are becoming very scarce, and maintenance needs to be addressed.

Kayak/pram rack policy: Renewal letters have gone out. Spaces can be reserved online for \$155.

Two letters were read into the minutes regarding support for not changing the tennis court at Seaside to pickle ball courts so, under the open meeting law, it can be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Facilities

Peter reported on various improvement projects to get the beach ready, and plans for building the deck and handicap accessibility at the Stramski house.

Plans for town meeting at Hopkins field were discussed. The Board felt that the lower Village field would be a better location because there is easier access, and the field is not in as good condition. A tent will have to be installed, and the company will have to be responsible for any damage to the irrigation system.

Recreation

Jaime Bloch reported that about 70% of those who signed up for the mini golf showed up despite the rain. The company was great to work with, and she hopes to do more with them.

She is hoping to increase spring and summer programs, to make up for a slow pandemic caused winter, and the Board approved 3 new summer hires.

Requests

The Girl Scouts asked to hold a camp fire and sing along at Hammond Nature Center on April 9 from 4 - 7 pm. This was approved.

The Arts Festival asked to use the beach for the kite festival and to use Crocker Park for performing arts. This was approved pending approval of the Board of Health and a plan for handling crowd size.