



OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Commission: October 7, 2020 via Zoom
LWVM Observer - Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to order by Linda Rice-Collins. All members present except chairman, Chip Osborne. The minutes were approved.

New Business

Gerry asked Peter about the problem with the fields at Seaside and Gatchell's AAA field. The problem: grubs which are dug up by various animals. It has been reseeded, but probably the problem won't go away till a frost. Also, a tree that came down at Gatchell's Green was removed quickly.

Programs

Jaime reported that fall programs have been well attended. After November there will be 4-week programs because of the uncertainty with weather, Covid etc. About 300 have signed up for the Scarecrow Stroll at Stramski's on October 24. The Cub Scouts will donate 40 scarce crows, and Jaime is asking the Chamber and local businesses to contribute some. She is hoping attendees will wear costumes, and there will be touchless trick or treating.

Facilities

Peter reported that the painting of the Stramski house has been completed and looks great. He will solicit a bid for a handicap ramp and ask the Shattuck Fund for money to pay for it.

The restrooms will close at the end of the month.

The pavilion plans are out to bid till October 23.

The wood and brush encroaching on Seaside Park near Chestnut Street will be removed.

Peter is looking into getting tarps for Gatchell's football field and Seaside. They cost about \$650 each

The Fire Chief asked about using Hammond Nature Center as a place to quarantine firefighters who get sick, if they don't want to be at home. They would install electric heat. Lots of questions arose about heating an uninsulated building, who would pay the electric bill, and if other first responders could use it. Peter will take this up with Jason Silva and the FinCom. Another possibility brought up was the Stramski house once the walls go up.

SUP contract

Jaime proposed a new contract for SUP for \$4000 per year for 3 years and then 2 one-year extensions at a possible increase. She would increase their season from May 1 until October 15. Off season, they would store their container in the Usher lot with the floats at the going rate of \$2.75 per square foot. Rec. and Park will take over kayak rentals next summer, the details of which to be determined. The Board approved the plan

Correspondence

A request from the Girl Scouts for a campfire on 10/22 from 5 - 7:30 at the Nature Center was approved with the okay of the fire department and covid compliance. A request from the Boy Scouts for a day of cooking in the parking lot near Devereux Beach on November 21 from 8-6 (cooking from 10 -5) was approved contingent on the permission of the Fire Department and Board of Health. A request from the Marblehead Children's Theater group to put on a performance at one of the parks with 10 actors and parents watching will be further discussed. Is it one performance only? Only Crocker and Chandler Hovey Parks are not heavily involved with sports every day.

The next meeting will be in two weeks.