



OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Sports Committee: 12/14/20 via zoom
LWVM Observer - Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to present to the public the Recreation and Park Commission's Proposal for the Renovation of Reynolds Playground.

Over the past six years, the Commission has invested in engineering suites, Conservation Commission approvals, and has worked with a sports facility consultant and a professional in the business of outdoor rink building.

The Commission has developed a proposal that would use the \$2.2 million from the Larz Anderson bequest to create something that would be true to honoring Mr. Anderson's wishes regarding providing winter sports for the town.

After 40 years of neglect, the athletic fields are dangerous, and the ice rink will not hold water. The proposal includes building a new refrigerated outdoor rink, 180 feet long, with restrooms, a mechanical room, and a warming room if space allows. Ice would be made from mid-November through mid-March—new ice once a day and twice on weekends and holidays. Ice time would be scheduled through the Rec and Park department, and there would be free ice time for Marblehead citizens. During the spring and summer, the rink would be available for street hockey and practice space for other youth sports.

The plan also calls for new playing fields—two all purposed fields side by side with their orientation changing seasonally to lessen wear and tear. The softball field will be rebuilt with a new backstop, benches and laser

graded infield. and will accommodate both a 6foot and 70-foot infield. The Charter School also uses these facilities.

Up to \$25,000 will be used to make improvements to the dog park and access to it. There is also the possibility of a snow making machine for cross country skiing.

The meeting was opened for questions and discussion including the following:

Will the Charter School pay for their usage? They will. Will there be access to the dog park from Tioga Way? No. A wall will be built across the road where there is now access. Why not a roof on the rink? It is cost prohibitive, and consideration for the neighbors although the rink will be built so that a roof could be added,

The Commission asked the attendees to voice their support to the Selectmen.

Bucky Grader brought up the need for more pickle ball courts, hoping to be able to fundraise to turn one of the tennis courts at Seaside into 4 pickle ball courts. The tennis community will be invited to the next Board meeting on January 5 for further discussion.