



OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Commission: 12/3/20.

LWVM Observer: Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Chip Osborne. Present: Linda Rice Collins, Jerry Tucker, Matt Martin, Derek Norcross, Jaime Bloch, Peter James. The minutes were approved.

New Business: There was discussion about Bucky Grader's request for **additional pickle ball courts**, either by making dual courts with lines and portable nets on an existing tennis court at the Vets, converting one court at Seaside, or creating two courts on either side of the backboard at Seaside. He and Joe McCain will be invited to the next meeting to discuss this together with the Board.

Recreation programs

- Jaime is planning all outside programs in 3-week sessions at Gatchell's with various crafts and drama during the week, and sports clinics on the weekends.
- A windscreen has been installed at Gatchell's.
- A snowless snowmen fundraiser is planned to raise money to restore Hobbs Playground. People buy wooden snowmen, decorate them, and then they will be displayed in various parks. They cost \$25 each and 40 have been sold so far.
- Jaime hopes to hold the Daddy-Daughter dance in some form outdoors.
- The Board approved buying two snowblowers to use on the Rainbow Zone where the outdoor programs are being held (the former tennis courts at Gatchell's)

Facilities

- It was suggested that a memorial bench be placed in Stramski's in memory of Robert Gillis, a 25-year employee.
- The athletic field blankets will be put down the week of Dec. 14. There will be one more mowing at Hopkins Field. The irrigation systems have been winterized. The Village School soccer fields are looking very good with fewer kids using them.
- The cost to provide handicapped access to the Stramski house on both sides would be over \$300,000, and is not affordable right now.

Chandler Hovey pavilions: Both pavilions are in bad enough shape to be a safety hazard. It will cost over \$300,000 to build new ones. There are basically three options: tear them down, fundraise private money, or have an override. Peter has put in a capital request. Chip will talk to Jason, the Selectmen and the Finance Committee about how to proceed.

Hydration Stations: The Board went over a proposal to put hydration stations at Crocker Park, Stramski's, Seaside, Chandler Hovey, and Devereux Beach. It was suggested that the dog bowl be put at the Seaside station near the flagpole. It was also suggested that Gatchell's be included. The cost will be \$19,000, \$15,000 of which will come from the Shattuck fund.

Memorandum of Understanding: This document outlines in detail the areas of responsibility between the Rec and Parks Department and the School Department. The Board approved it to be sent to the School Committee for their approval.

Ice Rink Feasibility Committee: Chip and Derek have been attending Committee meetings. Without going into too much detail, the costs of building an indoor rink would be about \$9 million with site development, and running it could be a money losing proposition for the town. The Anderson bequest was \$2.2 million, and was for winter sports for Marbleheaders.

Restoration of Reynolds Playground: The Recreation and Parks Board has come up with a plan to use the \$2.2 million bequest for a much-needed renovation and restoration of Reynolds playground. The fields are dangerously uneven, and the rink doesn't hold water. Among other things, the proposal would include a new (roofless) rink with a refrigerated surface that all ages in town could use at scheduled times for free. Restrooms would be built. There would be new soccer and softball fields and a new backstop for softball, and lighting. Chip will formalize a document to present to the Board at a meeting next week, and then present a power point version to the Selectmen and the public.

Correspondence

- Grace Church's request to hold a service on December 24 in the Devereux Beach parking lot (in cars) was approved with approval of the Board of Health.
- Porter Danforth and his friends have been cleaning up trash from Seaside on Sunday mornings. They were thanked and approved to keep doing this with guidance from Peter.

The meeting was adjourned.