



OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Board Meeting: Sept, 2, 5:00 PM via Zoom
LWV Observer - Kay Rieper

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

Float Storage Fees

There was a lengthy discussion about the proposed increase in float storage fees with representatives of the Corinthian, Eastern and Boston Yacht Clubs. All were caught off guard by the 58% increase, and had not budgeted for the increase. For instance, the Corinthian's fees would increase from \$9600 to \$15000, the Eastern's from \$16,200 to \$25,000. The Board needed to raise \$50,000 in revenue to make up for budget cuts, and found that the previous charges were lower than other towns on the coast. At the suggestion of the EYC, it was moved and passed to raise the fee from \$1.75 to \$2.10 the first year, then to \$2.50 the second year, then \$2.75 the third year for the yacht clubs, and then freeze the rate until 2028.

Bike Racks

Judith Black reported the Sustainable Marblehead was offered a donation of bike racks worth \$8735 to be placed at Crocker Park and Chandler Hovey. They are whimsical—a salmon, a bass and two anchors which would hold 24 bikes total. The Board voted to accept the donation with Peter, Jaime, and Judith to determine the exact locations.

Field Use

Linda Rice Collins reported on the proposed use of the fields for the fall sports season, both the school and town sports. There will be no travel leagues for youth soccer. Flag football wants to play as they don't travel, but they are not state approved yet. A proposal for a Fall II season between February vacation and April vacation has the Board worried about heavy use of the fields when they are dormant, frozen, or covered with snow. Improper plowing or shoveling of the fields could ruin them. There are special companies that take care of plowing turf fields at a cost. All games would be played on Piper which would mean it would be in use all the time with no time for

practice. It was suggested the Department buy more turf blankets to protect their fields.

Rink Committee Meeting

Derek Norcross reported on the meeting of the Rink Committee which is interested in building an ice rink in town. They have a \$2.2 million donation. They hired a consultant who reported that a fun size indoor rink would cost \$7.45 million without including land acquisition, A full size outdoor rink with no roof would cost \$1.4 million and would need 3 acres of land. Becky Cutting is researching where such land could be found. The maximum income a rink could bring in would be \$875,000, and the expenses would be \$745,000. A management company would be needed at a cost of \$25,000 a month.

Facilities

Peter James has gotten a permit for the inner harbor pavilion at Chandler Hovey. The front and side of the Stramski house have been painted. The basketball post repair should be done next week, and the Vets backstop replacement is in the works. Up to \$10,000 was approved for the repair of the beach guardrail and fence at Riverhead beach.

A fire lane strip was painted in yellow at Chandler Hovey to prevent people from blocking the handicap parking space.

Programs

Jaime Bloch reported that the fall programs are very challenging with the Covid unknowns. She is being creative about holding outside programs and has hired one young woman on a gap year to help with these programs and in the office.

Next Wednesday at 4 pm there will be a joint meeting of the Selectmen, Rec and Park Board, and COA about renaming the Community Center.