



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Recreation and Parks Commission
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
LWVM Observer - Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Linda Rice-Collins. Members present: Karin Ernst, Rosanna Ferrante, Matt Martin, Peter James, Superintendent, Jaime Bloch, Recreation Director

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Appearances

Brian Wheeler presented the tentative plans for the Festival of Arts performances at Crocker Park from Friday night, June 30, through Tuesday, July 4. He was commended on last year's festival performances, and the use of Crocker Park was approved.

Maura Dartly Rocco, representing the neighbors of the Vets' pickle ball courts, gave a comprehensive presentation on the noise levels caused by pickleball, and several ideas for mitigating the noise, including sound blankets installed on the school's solid brick wall, and planting of arborvitae on two sides of the courts. There is also the possibility of using quieter pickle ball rackets and balls. Karin Ernst will call an engineer who specializes in sound mitigation who will come to evaluate the area and give a price.

Rich Newburg, representing the pickle ball players, asked about the opening of the courts and offered to work with the Vine Street neighbors and possibly help raise money to pay for sound mitigation. Linda suggested that the Seaside Courts be opened instead of the Vets for the next couple of weeks. All of the nets will be put up March 20 when school sports begin, and until then, portable nets would be used. This was approved.

Budget

The proposed budget was discussed and approved with an 11% increase and will be presented to the Finance Committee. Parking, dingy rack fees and kayak rentals bring in about \$200,000 in revenue which goes to the town.

Parks

Peter reported on various jobs and repairs at Riverhead, Stramski's, and Castle Rock. FEMA is providing funds to correct erosion at Chandler Hovey Park. The small Pavilion at Devereux Beach should be replaced by early spring, The Seaside Grandstand needs some repair.

Recreation

Jaime reported that when the float storage agreement goes out, it will also include a maintenance and repair application.

Registration for summer programs is very strong.

On March 15, kayak permit registration will open at 11:00 am.

She is working on summer employment.

A request for a pickle ball tournament to benefit Alzheimer's research will be shared with the pickle ball community.

She will set up a meeting with the School Committee Chairman and the Superintendent to discuss the MOU. The space in the Community Center is too limited, and she needs to be able to use the schools for indoor programs.

Correspondence

The Marblehead Family Fund members will have a dedication ceremony on April 28 at Hobbs.

The CSA group requested some dates to distribute produce at Stramski's until they can move their shed to Coffin School.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 13, at 6:30.