



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION -10/30/23

In person – Not Recorded

LWV Observer – Maggie Smist

Members in Attendance: Matt Martin, Karin Ernst, Linda Rice-Collins, Shelly Bedrossian and Rossanna Ferrante, Jaime Bloch, Peter James

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm.

1. **Minutes from 10/18/23 meeting approved**
2. **Seaside Park Tennis Courts – discussion on making courts 2-4 dual purpose use for both tennis and pickleball -- permanently lining court 2 and temporary lining courts 3 & 4.**
 - With many public in attendance, Shelley summarized findings from last meeting and mainly the points that were not voted on at last meeting.
 - She discussed and summarized her sound study outlined in the powerpoint from the 10/18/23 meeting.
 - She discussed the other courts and the number of courts available in other towns per population.
 - Shelley discussed reasoning behind the reservation system and number of towns people using tennis and pickleball courts. She discussed the number of slots that will open up with all the changes to the reservation system and hours open.

- Costs associated with lining temporarily and cost of fencing discussed.
- After presentation and public comments, amendment made by Shelley to original plan as outlined on Vote 4 & 5. An amendment to this amendment was made and both approved with votes 3-2. Change to original vote is that court 2 at Seaside will become permanent Pickleball and courts 3&4 will remain tennis.

3. **Public Comments – summary of comments**

- Tennis doesn't use reservation system as much and they'll be boxed out of using courts. Comment made about kids not just being able to go down and play with the rez system.
- Why not add 3 new pickleball courts and not make dual purpose courts?
- Girls' varsity team coach stated they don't want lines on court as players are learning on these courts and it is difficult. Money was raised for Seaside tennis courts from townspeople about 5 years ago.
- Bubier Rd owner discussed noise level and use of music at courts – feels another study should be one on noise and consider noise barriers and quieter products. This was brought up a few times in other public comments.
- Pickleball is positive influence in town and we don't want to pit older people who play pickleball against younger tennis players.
- Pickleball supporter saw Shelley doing noise study and it was a solid study.
- Few comments about out of towners using Marblehead courts and private lessons being given on tennis courts.

4. **Park Department Update – Peter James**

- Lighting contract has been sent to the light department and once contracts are signed work will be done.
- The bid for boilers are due this Thursday – only one company has put in bid so far.

- The fence for Seaside has been discussed with town and will be shipped this week.
- Gatchell lights will be fixed this week
- Willow trees have been planted at Seaside.
- Tom McGovern has offered to pay for basketball court resurfacing at Seaside – Peter is trying to get bids.
- Budget is due by 11/13 – department is asking for 2 part time employees.
- Stramski project is moving forward and they are meeting with engineers – they will frame out where lift is being placed.
- Survey and map has been completed for bench owners. There will be new benches installed.

5. **Recreation Department Update – Jaime Bloch**

- Fall session has ended and new session runs thru the holiday. Programming will be moved indoors. Every room in the community center will be used depending on staffing.
- Basketball season has started – hall monitors and gym attendants are still needed. There was a discussion about ages of employees for the position and ‘how’ they would be paid. Jaime emphasized the need for commitment and professionalism from those hired.
- The summer, 2024 email will go out soon and the remainder of the year is being planned now. There was a discussion of schedule for school year and staffing. The Parks Dept will begin advertising for staffing at the same time as the Rec Dept. It is a challenge to build staffing thru the winter months.

6. **Correspondence**

- There were three letters all pertaining to the dual-purpose tennis/pickleball courts.

7. **Next meeting**

- No date or time set for the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.