

**Amherst Leisure Services Commission Meeting Minutes  
November 29, 2018**

<b>Present</b>	Nate Budington, Becky Demling, Youssef Fadel, Ken Johnston, Sarah Marshall, and Meg Rosa (chair)
<b>Absent</b>	-
<b>Guests</b>	None
<b>Staff</b>	Barb Bilz, Director
<b>Call to Order</b>	Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

- The minutes of the October 30, 2018 meeting were approved as amended by a unanimous vote.
- Nate Budington suggested that a Public Comment period should be added to future agendas. Barb Bilz agreed to do this.

**FY20 Budget Update**

***Operations – LSSE, Pools, and Cherry Hill***

- Barb reported that the budgets for FY20 are essentially level funded. An additional request has been put forward for funds to support the minimum wage increase.

***Capital***

- A request for \$75,000 for recreational signage has been put forward as well as \$75,000 in additional funding for a restroom at Plum Brook.

**Nordic Skiing at Cherry Hill – Nat Woodruff**

Nat Woodruff reported to Barb that the Amherst Nordic Skiing Club needs more time to raise the money needed to do a trial snow making effort at Cherry Hill. They have postponed their plans for a trial until next year.

**Update on Edible Trees and Plants at Groff Park**

Barb reported that Dave Ziomek, Alan Snow and Chris Johnson met with John Root to walk the site at Groff Park and discuss possible locations for edible trees and plants. The area west of the entrance road would be the preferred site for plantings. In addition, plantings could be done in the upper east section of the park. No definite date was set for the plantings but it will not occur until after construction of the playground and spray park.

## **Director's Report**

### ***Amherst Center Recreation Working Group – Community Field Master Plan***

- Draft concept plans were presented at a public forum at the High School on October 4<sup>th</sup> at the ARHS. Paul Bockelman and Dave Ziomek attended the Regional School Capital Group Meeting last week. Dave reported that the track/soccer field is a priority for the Regional Schools.

### ***North Common***

- The Committee met to discuss the final concept plan and recommended changes to the plan.

### ***Groff Park***

- Demolition was scheduled for November, 2018. Playground equipment and spray elements will still be ordered this fall. Changes to spray park were approved at last meeting to reduce cost of project. Project will be rebid.

### ***Mill River Recreation Area***

- Application for a PARC grant has been submitted for renovations to playground, pavilion, and basketball court. Grant awards will be awarded sometime in November.

### ***Vacancy Filled***

- **Cristina Rey** has been hired as a Customer Assistant splitting her time between the central services counter and LSSE. Cristina is proficient in Spanish and will be an asset to our LSSE crew.

### ***Sports***

- Suburban Basketball games have started and AYBL registration continues. There are a total of 85 children enrolled in the Suburban travel program. Enrollment in the Suburban program is up 28% over enrollment in 2017. Enrollment is still in progress for the AYBL program and there are currently 188 children enrolled. The annual Jamboree event will be held on December 15, 2018. AYBL games begin on January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Teen Ski and Snowboarding registrations are in progress. There are currently 21 children enrolled.
- We are in the process of reviewing/revising the bid for the host site of the 2019 NUTC program. Our goal is to get the bid out in December.

### ***Aquatics***

- Indoor lessons at the UMass Totman pool will begin on January 22, 2019. Lap swimming and open swim resume at the Middle School on February 2, 2019.

### ***Golf Course***

- The course closed for the season on November 13, 2018.

### ***Special Events***

- WinterFest planning is underway. New sponsorship materials will go out in Early December and the calendar programs and venues will be up by the end of this week.

### ***Community Theater***

- Rehearsals are underway for the production of *Peter Pan*. The first performance will take place on January 10, 2019.

### ***Adult and Youth Education***

- Winter classes begin in January. New offerings include: *Active BEAST*, a physical and mental self-improvement class as well as *How to Thrive in Trying Times*, a self-care class focusing on self-hypnosis, mindfulness, meditations, etc.

### ***Outreach***

- Program Outreach continues. Winter programs have included: holiday fun nights, movies, and a trip to Springfield for Bright Nights. A new program is slated to start at North Village in December.

### ***After School Program***

- There are currently 108 children enrolled at the Prime Time Afterschool Program. Enrollment is up 8.5% over this time last year.
- An ALICE training is scheduled for December 2, 2018 for our afterschool staff members and will be led by APD. Lt. Brian Johnson will conduct the training.
- Sexual abuse and neglect training, as mandated by the State, was held on November 27, 2018.

### ***Strategic Planning***

- The Request for Quotes and Qualification from consultants is scheduled to go out in December.

### ***Marketing***

- Winter brochure is out and registrations are in progress.
- New *After School* software went live on November 28, 2018.
- Development/Implementation of Marketing Plans WinterFest.

### ***Community Visibility***

- LSSE will have a presence at the following community events in November:
  - Human Service Network meeting.
  - Merry Maple Event
  - Farwell Event for Mindy Domb at the Amherst Survival Center

### **Next Meeting**

The next LSSE Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the LSSE office.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.