

**Amherst Leisure Services Commission Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2019**

Present	Nate Budington, Becky Demling, Ken Johnston, Sarah Marshall, and Meg Rosa (chair)
Absent	Youssef Fadel
Guests	None
Staff	Barb Bilz, Director
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Minutes

- The minutes of the November 29, 2018 meeting were approved as amended by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

None

Amherst Youth Soccer Update

Meg Rosa reported on the status of the Amherst Youth Soccer Association (AYSA). All but one board member has resigned. The root of the discord centered around a disagreement to retain the Director of Coaching. This was largely based on fiscal considerations. The Rec League coaching numbers are down and there is concern that there will not be enough coaches to serve the all of the children that would like to play. Some of the Travel Teams will not be returning this spring.

LSSE was approached by former members of the board and was asked to run a rec program for the younger children as well as one of its Travel Team levels (3rd-4th graders). Based on the recommendation of the LSSE Director, the Commission agreed they would not start a program this spring but would revisit this issue in the early summer.

National Ultimate Training Camp – Site Contract

The contract to host the National Ultimate Training Camp in 2019 was awarded to Mt. Holyoke College. This will be the third year in a row that the camp will be held there.

FY20 Budget – Fee Increases

There will be just a few increases in program fees in FY20. These include:

- Daily Fee Admission for pools (up \$1)
- Swim Lessons (up \$5)
- Day Camps (up approx.. \$10 a week)
- After School (TBD based on input from APSD and the other 2 after-school programs)

Barb Bilz reported that she has asked for a budget increase to compensate for the increase in the state mandated minimum wage.

CPAC and PARC Grant

The three projects put forth to the CPAC were:

- Mill River Recreation Area – Renovation funding
 - We did not receive the funding from the State PARC grant so the request will be significantly reduced and used to fund design costs for the park.
- Groff Park – Renovation funding
- Downtown Recreation Area – Design funds

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fields and Facilities

Groff Park

- Playground equipment and spray elements are on order. Changes to spray park were approved at last meeting to reduce cost of project. Project is being rebid.

Mill River Recreation Area

- Application for a PARC grant was submitted for renovations to playground, pavilion, and basketball court. Unfortunately, the project was not recommended for funding but it will be resubmitted next year.

North Common

- This project has been put on hold until 2020.

Staff

Front Desk and Aquatics

- Janet Stewart has started working at the front desk as part of the senior tax work off program. She is working 4 hours a day on Mondays and Thursdays. In addition we have two new work study students working at the front desk various hours. Their names are Milgely Perez-Abreu and Melissa Rodriquez. They both are fluent in Spanish and will be with us until the end of the UMass school year.
- MJ Furnia, our long time part-time Aquatics Coordinator, has taken a full-time Aquatics Director position at the Belchertown Parks and Recreation Dept. Cassie Warren who has worked for us as a Pool Manager for the past 6 years will take over her position.

Programs

Sports

- Games and practices are underway for Suburban Basketball and AYBL. There are a total of 417 children are enrolled.
- Teen Ski and Snowboarding is in progress. There are 41 children enrolled.
- Bid went out for the host site of the 2019 NUTC program. Mt. Holyoke College was the lone submission.

Aquatics

- Indoor lessons at the UMass Totman pool will begin on January 22, 2019. There are currently 129 children enrolled in the first two sessions. Lap swimming and open swim resume at the Middle School on February 2, 2019.

Golf Course

- The Amherst Nordic Ski Club has postponed their effort to provide a commercial grade snow making trial at Cherry Hill. They felt they needed more time to raise the required funds for the trial (approximately \$15,000).

Special Events

- WinterFest underway. See attached schedule.

Community Theater

- The first performance of Peter Pan took place on January 10, 2019. Attendance was excellent this year. Unfortunately the final performance was cancelled due to weather and UMass closing its campus that day.

Outreach

- Program Outreach continues. 81 children and adults participated in a bus trip to Springfield for Bright Nights in late December. Participants came from North Village, South Point, Mill Valley, Olympia Oaks, and Butternut.

Primetime After School Program

- 24 additional children are now attending Primetime from the Amherst Public School's Title One, English Language Learner, and Math Program. The children attend Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. This has brought our total enrollment up to 132 children.
- 40 children took part in a field trip to Northampton for bowling and 45 younger children will participate in an animal education program that will be coming to the after school program next month.

Strategic Planning

- Proposal is being finalized. The Request for Quotes and Qualification will go out next week.

Community Visibility

- LSSE will have a presence at the following community events in Dec. and January:
 - Human Service Network meeting
 - Chamber After 5 Event
 - Atkins Farms Winter Sampler Event
 - Pioneer Valley Recreation and Parks Association meeting

Next Meeting

The next LSSE Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the LSSE office.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.