

**Amherst Leisure Services Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Public Meeting**  
**August 5, 2020**

**Present**                    Youssef Fadel, Sarah Marshall, Becky Demling, Stephanie Jackson, and Victor Nunez-Ortiz and Meg Rosa (Chair)

**Absent**                    None

**Staff**                    Barb Bilz, LSSE Director

**Call to Order**            The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Minutes**

- The minutes of the last Commission meeting were from January 21, 2020. The Commission had not met since then due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The minutes from the January 21, 2020 meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

**Public Comment:**    None

**CPAC Update**

- Sarah Marshall reported that CPAC approved and recommended many proposals and that most were funded for the full amount. The exception was a request from the Jones Library to support construction of a special collections department. The proposal was initially approved but the vote to approve was later rescinded. The Committee has asked the Jones Library to return with a new proposal that is compliant with historical preservation requirements.
- Nate Budington is stepping down from CPAC as he is moving out of Town.
- Becky Demling expressed interest in joining CPAC.

**Strategic Plan**

- The final draft of the Strategic Plan has been distributed to staff and Commission Members.
- Our first step will be to work on our program plan. This is basically a working plan that will prioritize our goals and establish a timeline for our first year.
- Barb Bilz stated that it would be good to unveil our new name as part of the Department's physical move back to the Bangs Center. She stated that the move is in the works and anticipates it may happen sometime in the fall.
- Sarah Marshall suggested changing the word "extravagant" in reference to Community Theater to "elaborate."
- Stephanie Jackson asked Barb Bilz if she would contact Sharon and ask how we should proceed with a fund development plan. Barb Bilz felt she would be able to find a professional consultant to provide this service pro-bono.

- Barb Bilz will schedule a meeting of the Commission and Staff to create a “Year One” list of priorities and establish a timeline for the year.

## **Director’s Report**

### ***Sports***

- Fall Sports programming this year will include the following:
  - Amherst Youth Football Co-ed Non-Contact Clinic, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Ace Tennis Instruction, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Ultimate Skills Clinic, 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Youth Cross Country, 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - SMAC Track Clinic, 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - NEFC Junior Soccer Academy, K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Girls on the Run, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Nick Walas, Sports Director, continues to manage operations (excluding turf related functions) at the golf course. He is also on-site working multiple daily shifts at the course.

### ***Fields and Facilities***

- The Koufax League and Little League have convened Covid-19 modified practices and games at Community Field and Mill River.

### ***Aquatics***

- The Groff Park Spray Pad is open. An LSSE attendant will be present on weekends and holidays. It will close on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The outdoor swimming pool season has been extended at Mill River Swimming Pool. It will remain open until September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- We continue to carefully monitor social distancing in the pool, on-deck, and in the bathhouse. All Covid-19 protocols are being enforced at our facilities as well as the recording of contact information on all swimmers during lap and open swim.
- We continue to have excellent feedback from patrons related to the our outdoor swimming pool operations.
- We are currently exploring ways to provide lap and open swim during the school year.

### ***Golf Course***

- Play continues to be strong at Cherry Hill.
- Revenues for the month of August were \$37,648. In terms of revenue, this is one of the best Augusts in years!

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

- Discussions continue with the School Department to provided day care for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders at Crocker Farm Elementary for children of School and Town employees.
- We continue to be in contact with parents and children enrolled in last year’s after school program and are providing extracurricular on-line virtual activities for children as a resource to parents.

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

- Confirmed fall Adult and Youth Educations programs this year will include (but not limited to):
  - Real World Math for Middle School and High School aged youths
  - Qi Gong, Adults
  - Yoga, Adults

### ***Special Events – Halloween Carnival and Parade***

- Planning is underway for the annual Halloween Carnival and Parade. The event will feature a combination of in-person events, such as: local business window painting, downtown business trick or treating, a “How do You Mask contest”, and a “Trick or Treat My Ride Halloween Car Parade”. We also will be collaborating with the Amherst BID and the Amherst Area Chamber.

### ***Outreach and Summer Camp***

- We will start-up our virtual activity videos again this fall for parents and children with program content including: arts and crafts, exercise, storytelling, dance, and cooking. Videos will be distributed through You Tube and other social media venues. They will also be available through our website.
- Nikki Abelli, Outreach, Camps and Special Events Coordinator, is creating a Family S’Mores program activity to be held at various housing areas serving low-income families.
- *Nature Kits* will continue to be distributed to families at Puffers Pond and Groff Park. Corresponding programming will also provided.

### ***Strategic Planning***

- Staff and Commission members will be working to establish the department’s top priorities for the year and creating a timeline based on outcomes from the Strategic Plan.

### ***Software and Webpages***

- Marion Jordan, Marketing and Registration Coordinator, continues to work with IT and the Planning Dept. to provide updates to Amherstcovid-19.org.
- We are constantly updating our webpage and posting on social media in order to communicate with the public and provide useful content and resources for parents and children during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- We will not be distributing a paper brochure this fall. An on-line brochure will be posted on our website. A marketing/advertising trifold pamphlet has been sent to parents of past LSSE program participants to inform them of this change and direct them to our on-line brochure.

### ***LSSE Staff (Other Duties as Assigned)***

- Grace Marczuk – Senior Center meal delivery and wellness checks (various days); Puffers Pond Attendant (two days a week); Poll Worker, Cherry Hill Attendant
- Nikki Abelli – Puffers Pond Attendant (2 days a week), Poll Worker, Cherry Hill Attendant
- Donna Roy – Minute taking for essential meetings of other department committees (as assigned); Poll Worker, Cherry Hill Attendant

- Marion Jordan – IT Department, COVID-19 website and other assistance as needed; Poll Worker, Cherry Hill Attendant

### **Commission Comments**

- Stephanie Jackson suggested that there should be some sort of division at the spray pad/playground at Groff. She thought a gate would be good to separate the spray pad and playground. She also thought there should be more signage about mask wearing.
- Sarah Marshall said she would like to see some informational printouts posted on a kiosk at the spray pad/playground. Barb Bilz said that a kiosk is part of the plan at Groff but it won't be in place until next season. She will also ask staff to hand out informational flyers at Groff Park on weekends.
- Meg Rosa stated that it has been a very positive change to have attendants at Puffers Pond.

### **Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and it will be a Zoom public meeting.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.