

Amherst Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Zoom Public Meeting
November 18, 2020

Present Becky Demling, Youssef Fadel, Stephanie Jackson, Carolyn Mailler, Sarah Marshall, and Meg Rosa (Chair)

Absent Victor Nunez-Ortiz

Staff Barb Bilz, LSSE Director

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Minutes

- The minutes of the Commission meetings from October 14, 2020 were approved as amended by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment: None

CPA Proposal Update Including North Common

- Sarah Marshall, who also chairs CPAC, reported that the committee was in the final phase of reviewing the various proposals that were submitted.
- There were two proposals that should have been submitted for consideration under the Recreation category. These included:
 - Replace Pavilion on lower level at Groff Park
 - Sand blasting and sealing of Mill River Pool
- Additional funding was also sought for the refurbishment of the North Common. \$250,000 of the \$500,000 request would come from the Recreation category.
- Meg Rosa moved the motion that the Commission support the funding of the North Common CPA proposal. It was seconded by Sarah Marshall and the vote of support was unanimous.

Name Change - Official Recommendations to the Town Manager

Two recommendations to the Town Manager are required to change the name of the Department and the Commission. The following actions were taken:

- Meg Rosa made a motion to recommend to the Town Manager that the name of the Department be changed from Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education to Amherst Recreation (LSSE). The motion was seconded by Becky Demling. The Commission then voted (by voice count) to recommend this change. The vote was unanimous.
- Meg Rosa made a motion to recommend to the Town Manager that the Commission's name be changed from Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education (LSSE) Commission to Amherst Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Becky

Demling. The Commission then voted (by voice count) to recommend this change. The vote was unanimous.

Name Change Subcommittee Update and Logo

- The Name Change subcommittee met to work out logistics and discuss the rollout of the new name. The group decided that logo submissions would be sought and that five logos would be presented to the public and a vote would be taken to select the winning logo.
- The subcommittee originally hoped that logos would be submitted by November 13. Unfortunately there were not enough submissions. The Commission recommended that the deadline for submissions be extended to January 8th. In addition, there will be more time to conduct outreach to high school artists, advertise this opportunity in the Winter Brochure, and do other promotions to solicit submissions.
- The Winter Brochure will include the new name, emails will go out to all past program participants, and it will be posted on social media this month.

Cherry Hill Advisory Committee and Charge

- The Commission reviewed the *draft* Charge of the Cherry Hill Advisory Committee. Barb Bilz reported that the *draft* Charge was sent to the Town Manager for his review and asked the Commission for their input as well.
- There was some concern that this should be a sub-committee and not a committee. Barb stated that she would ask the Town Manager about this.
- There was also concern that this might have negative implications for the course. Barb stated that the course was extremely successful this season and that the charge of the committee is to basically make improvements to existing operations, make comparisons and recommendations by examining other like operations, course lay-out, and management. In addition the committee would make recommendations for other potential off-season non-golf uses of the property over the next three years.

Director's Report

Sports

- SMAC Track, Youth Cross Country, and Ace Tennis programs ended in late October after a successful five weeks.
- We had such a tremendous response to the SMAC Track program that we added another session that will run during the month of November. This program's enrollment is at full capacity.
- Ultimate Frisbee and our modified football program ends in November. Both have been very successful and enrolled to capacity.
- We are currently investigating the possibility of running a modified basketball program/league.
- 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.

Aquatics

- We are still hopeful that we will be able to provide lap and open swim at the Middle School at some point this winter/spring.

Golf Course

- Play was still very strong despite a significant amount of rain and even snow late in the month of October.
- The trend of record revenues continues. In FY20 revenues for the month of October were only at \$12,365. Revenues for the month of October, FY21 were at \$24,547.
- The course is scheduled to close for the season on November 16th.
- Commission member Youssef Fadel has agreed to chair the Cherry Hill Advisory Committee. This committee will examine operations/facilities at Cherry Hill and look at other potential uses for the site.

Primetime Child Care Program

- All requirements necessary to open a State EEC licensed childcare/remote learning assistance program at the Middle School were completed. These requirements process was extensive including: Temporary Move License, Reopening License Under Covid-19, and General License Renewal.
- The program opened on October 26th as scheduled.
- The program is located in the Girls Exercise Room adjacent to the Middle School Gym. We also have access to the gym as well as the Boys Exercise Room.
- We currently have 6 children of Town staff enrolled in the program. Several others are considering enrollment. We will be expanding enrollment to include Amherst residents the week of November 7th. Our current capacity is 20 children.

Adult and Youth Education

- The final outdoor Qi Gong class was held in late October.
- Most winter adult and youth education programs will be held remotely with the exception of fitness classes and winter sports related activities.

Special Events – Halloween Carnival and Parade

- We collaborated with the BID and Chamber to put on three Halloween Programs. They included:
 - How do You Mask Contest
 - Downtown Halloween Window Painting
 - Trick or Treat My Ride Halloween Car Parade. We had over 75 families register for this event. APD and AFD also assisted with this event along with multiple downtown businesses.

WinterFest

- A meeting with the BID and Chamber is schedule for the week of November 8 to discuss preliminary plans for WinterFest 2021.

Outreach

- 100 Dinosaur Excavation Packs and program materials were distributed to low income housing areas during the month of October.

Website Upgrade

- Staff members are working with IT to implement the upgrades and improvements to the website.
- Upgrade to Rectrac to 3.1 is in process.

Current LSSE Staff Duties

- Grace Marczuk – Senior Center meal delivery and wellness checks (ended); Cherry Hill Proshop Attendant; Child Care Program Coordinator
- Nikki Abelli – Cherry Hill Proshop Attendant; Child Care Program; Outreach
- Donna Roy – Minute taking for essential meetings of other department committees (as assigned); Cherry Hill Attendant; Child Care Program; Clerk’s Office 2 days a week (ending November 3)
- Marion Jordan – IT Department, COVID-19 website and other assistance as needed; Cherry Hill Proshop Attendant; Zoom Meeting Coordinator; Child Care Program
- Nick Walas – Golf Course, Sports Programs, and Child Care Program

Next Meeting

- The next scheduled meeting of LSSE Commission will be on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:00. This will be a Zoom public meeting.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.