

**Amherst Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Public Meeting**  
**December 16, 2020**

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

**Absent** Youssef Fadel

**Staff** Barb Bilz, Recreation Director

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

**Minutes**

- The minutes of the Commission meetings from November 18, 2020 were approved as amended by a unanimous vote.

**Public Comment:** None

**Name Change Subcommittee Update**

- The name change to Amherst Recreation was officially approved by the Town Manager.
- The Department is in the progress of changing signage, web information, etc. to reflect the new name.
- Sarah Marshall suggested that we look into changing our Facebook, YouTube and other social media addresses.
- We have received a number of logo submissions. Deadline for submissions is January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- There was a question as to when the process would be completed. Barb Bilz responded that she was hopeful it would be complete by the beginning of January.
- Sarah Marshall asked if there was a way to include, “formerly LSSE” in some of our messaging and social media. Barb Bilz stated that she would ask Marion Jordan about this.

**Cherry Hill Advisory Committee Update**

- The *draft* Charge was sent to the Town Manager for his review. We are hopeful that members of the committee will be appointed in January.

**Winter Aquatics Programming**

- Amherst Recreation will begin a winter/spring aquatics program beginning in late January or early February. Diana Fordham, who served as Coordinator for this program last year, has agreed to return. She will begin recruiting staff after the holidays. Barb Bilz will work with the School Department and the Tritons to work out a schedule for lap and open swim.

### **Child Care/Remote Learning Assistance Program and Other Outreach Programming**

- The program opened at the Middle School on October 26<sup>th</sup> and serves 20 children in grades kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program is filled to capacity.
- The program is located in the Girls Exercise Room adjacent to the Middle School Gym and has access to the gym as well as the Boys Exercise Room.
- We are currently working with EEC to open another site at the Middle School. This site will serve an additional 20 -24 children. Our site inspection is scheduled for January 6, 2021 and we anticipate opening the second week of January. Our current challenge is recruiting staff to work at the program.

### **Director's Report**

#### ***Sports***

- A Skills Development Basketball Program will be held at Pelham Elementary School. Each group will have 15 players (or maximum amount determined by health guidelines). Each group will have 1-2 coaches. These coaches will be volunteers from last AYBL and Suburban Basketball season.
- The program will start January 4<sup>th</sup> and run through the week of March 8<sup>th</sup> (two sessions per week, ten weeks for a total of twenty sessions).
- Pricing will be based on the length of the program (\$119 for a 20 session program, \$59 for a 10 session program).
- Registration will start the week of December 7<sup>th</sup> pending final approval from the Superintendent.

#### ***CPA Recreation Projects***

- The proposal for a new pavilion on the lower level of Groff Park that I submitted was approved by CPAC.
- In addition, the two other recreation proposals were also approved. They are:
  - Sand blasting and sealing of Mill River Pool
  - North Common renovations

#### ***Aquatics***

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

#### ***Golf Course***

- The golf course closed on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Revenues for the month of November were at \$10,488.76. This is another record for the month of November.
  - Comparison of revenues July 1 – November 30:
    - FY21 \$143,424
    - FY20 \$111,689
    - FY19 \$ 86,179
- A draft charge for the Cherry Hill Advisory Committee has to the Town Manager for review/approval. This committee will examine operations, facilities, and management at Cherry Hill.

### ***Primetime Child Care Program***

- We currently have 20 children enrolled in the program. It is enrolled to capacity.
- We are working with the State's EEC to open another program that will be located on the second floor of the southeast corner of the Middle School. New licensing requirements for expansion must be met and a site visit by EEC will be required for approval.
- The second program is scheduled to open the second week of January.

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

- Winter Adult/Youth Education Classes include:
  - Fit to the Core – Exercise program for teens and adults - via Zoom
  - Los Amigos and Fun Club - Adult special needs programming via Zoom
  - ART – Ventures for Kids – Ages K-5

### ***Special Events – WinterFest***

- We met with the BID and Chamber to discuss preliminary plans for WinterFest 2021.

### ***Outreach***

- Holiday in-person outreach programming to various housing areas is being planned for late December.

### ***Strategic Planning***

#### ***Name Change***

- The Commission and Staff have begun work related to the rebranding and name change to Amherst Recreation. Logo submissions from local artists and graphic designers are being sought and are due by January 8, 2021. The top five will be part of a community wide contest to select the new logo.
- An email went out to our database that communicates our history, reasons for the change, and expectations from us going forward. In addition an announcement went out via social media outlets.

#### ***Website Upgrade***

- Staff members continue to work with IT to implement the upgrades and improvements to the website and upgrade Rectrac to 3.1.

### ***Current LSSE Staff Duties***

- Grace Marczuk – Senior Center meal delivery and wellness checks (ended); Child Care Program Coordinator
- Nikki Abelli – Child Care Program (will become the Coordinator of the second program); Outreach
- Donna Woods – Minute taking for essential meetings of other department committees (as assigned); Child Care Program; Finances
- Marion Jordan – IT Department, COVID-19 website and other assistance as needed; Zoom Meeting Coordinator; Child Care Program
- Nick Walas –Sports Programs; Child Care Program

### **Other Commission Member Comments**

- Becky Demling suggested that perhaps having families decorate windows in a winter theme would be a safe activities for WinterFest.

- Sarah Marshall asked that the Department investigate offering Covid-19 safe programs for Middle School and High School aged children this spring.
- Becky Demling suggested that we should not offer memberships this winter and spring but instead have individuals sign up for lane reservations and pay a fee at the same time.

**Next Meeting**

- The next scheduled meeting of LSSE Commission will be on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 6:00. This will be a Zoom public meeting.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.