

Amherst Recreation Commission

Minutes of March 7, 2022

Present: Youssef Fadel, Sanjay Arwade, Matthew Cain, Carolyn Mailler, Sarah Marshall, Rey Harp (Director)

Absent: Victor Nunez Ortiz

Others in attendance: None

The meeting, conducted remotely by Zoom, was called to order by Rey Harp at 6:07 p.m.

- Matt Cain will take minutes for this meeting
- No public comment
- January minutes approved

Rey reviewed his monthly report on all programs:

WinterFest:

- Regarding Omicron cancellations: in future would have consulted the Rec Commission earlier
- WinterFest was a bit of a Fizzle this year, mostly due to warm weather
- Youssef: in earlier years there was a WinterFest committee which drew people from the Chamber, BID and community to help with planning, fundraising, and coordinating, starting around October

Staff projects:

- Marion working on fee structures, marketing strategy (tri-fold rather than catalog), office layout improvements
- Sarah: maybe information cards for different audiences e.g. Seniors, Child sports, Spanish language audiences
- Jose working on Cherry Hill membership and revenue, feeder programs for High School sports, especially girls sports
- Sanjay: Unfortunate that the Amherst school district is not supporting 7-8 grade sports, Amherst Rec needs to fill the gap
- Sarah: A Youth Center could also support 7-8 grade students staying active

Operational Goals:

- System for communication and scheduling of town facilities between Rec, Schools, DPW
- Increase Rec presence and activity in town recreation spaces. E.g. weekend yoga in the park

Youth Center:

- South end center tour: a large and popular gym, basketball courts are a revenue generator
- Enfield tour: more similar to what Amherst would need. Pool tables, computer room, small gym. Mostly drop in, not much programming currently. 1-2 dozen kids, mostly 7, 8, 9th grade.
- 6th grade moving to the Middle School in 2023 should tie into Youth Center planning
- Starting feasibility study with YSET: needs, costs to build and operate
- Elementary school building project may lead to one of the elementary schools being vacated, possibly could be used for Rec

Open Commission position: three candidates. Sarah and Victor leave at the end of June due to term limits

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for 6pm Monday April 4

Meeting adjourned by Ray Harp at 7:29pm

Submitted by Matthew Cain