Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Committee

There was a Special meeting of the above referenced committee held on September 16, 2020.

Committee members present: Louis Blumenfeld, Paula Jones, Gail Nolan, Lincoln Anderson (joined 8:07 pm)
Absent: Orindel Kidd, Keith Temple, Sarai Peart
Also present were: David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services.

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm.

July & August Report: Dave Melesko provided a brief overview, highlighting the following:

- Indoor summer camp programs could accommodate 80 children per week; average number of weekly participants was 30. The drop-in playground program for ages 11+ didn’t take; it’s difficult to run programs with fewer than 10 participants, and the maximum number was 5 to 8.
- The “Movie on the Lawn” screenings offered during Phase 2 reopening had good attendance, particularly the August 15 showing of “Toy Story Four.”
- Leisure Services (and Social and Youth Services) have decided to not participate with the BOE 7th & 8th Grade After School Grant. The BOE is currently not participating in in-person after-school activities. All parties involved will re-evaluate in late October/early November with the hope of returning to in-person programming (with reduced numbers).
- The Impact Basketball League (a summer league basketball program for middle- and high-school students) was originally playing outside at the Rockwell basketball courts, but was moved indoors due to the inability to monitor and control Covid-19 safety protocols (e.g. crowd size, mask-wearing). The indoor program worked very well with enhanced safety protocols.
- The Fall program brochure was emailed out. Going forward, the quarterly brochures will be sent via email (not hard copy) resulting in savings of approximately $6,000 per publication. The brochure will be supplemented by email updates about additional events and programs being offered by the Department.

Old Business

- Fall programming emphasis is on getting people outdoors as much as possible. This year’s Boo Bash will be outdoors with pre-wrapped give-aways for distribution. Leisure Services is planning organized Friday-night drop-ins for November. Pickleball will be available through sign-up time slots; no walk-ins will be allowed.
- Current Projects –
  - Reservoir 2 – The survey has been received. Dave visited the site about a month ago with DPW Director Dan Carter, the surveyor, and several others from DEEP. They were pleased to see the progress the Flying Club has made in removing their footprint. The $1,000 rent in the draft lease has been reduced to $1; the leased acreage has been reduced to 80 acres from 300 acres. Dave will send the revised draft lease to the Town Attorney after he meets again with the DEEP representative.
Samuel Wheeler Reed Park – A wooden barrier fence about 700 feet long has been installed. The fence is about 25 feet off the side of the road, providing ample room for parking. Overflow parking is available at Metacomet School. Dave reported that a designated parking lot area at this park would have required a State permit. The Department of Public Works has core-aerated the mowed area where cars had been inappropriately parking. Gail Nolan reported she had seen some negative comments about the changes on social media and suggested the Town put out a flyer explaining the improvements. Dave indicated that additional outreach was planned once the Department’s Office Assistant position is filled.

Bill Lee Basketball Courts – Project completed.

Pershing Park Playscape – Dave had an on-site informational visit. He spoke with three individuals and got their input on the new playscape design. He noted that additional funding to cover the cost of additional playscape features desired was available from the Privilege Road subdivision developer.

Farmington River Park – GeoQuest has been asked for a quote for an environmental review report which is needed before house demolition. The intent is to achieve cost-savings for the Town by doing pre-demo assessments for both FRP and 194 Terry Plain Road houses; the 194 Terry Plain Road report is complete.

Park School Complex Fields – Some areas need to be reseeded since the initial hydro seeding didn’t take.

New Business
- Gail Nolan asked if the Human Services Facility has a Certificate of Occupancy. Dave indicated that it doesn’t yet, that there are still one or two unresolved issues.

Public Comments - None

Comments from the Committee
- Lincoln Anderson stated that the face lift on the Bill Lee Courts is beautiful, and that the residents are really impressed with it. One lady had asked him about mini-courts for children, so Lincoln suggested he call Dave at Leisure Services.
- Paula Jones asked if there was any update on the New England Mountain Biking Association’s expression of interest in partnering with the Town on Wilcox Park trails and maintenance. Dave reported that NEMBA had been in contact with him, but there was no real update.
- Lou Blumenfeld commented that the Department had accomplished a great deal this past summer.

Approval of Minutes – The July 6, 2020 minutes were ratified (Jones moved, Blumenfeld seconded).

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm. Our next meeting will be on October 5.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Jones