Recreation Commission

February 2019 Minutes

**Members present: Earl Storey, Beth Travis, Brian Kane, Colleen Dowd, Bill Clausen**

**Town Meeting - Warrant article presentation**

Jenn Kirkland explained that she would be presenting at town meeting to request funds ($53,000) to resurface Haskell Street Playground. The resurfacing will make the playground handicap accessible and it also creates a safer playing surface for kids playing. Jenn explained that the article falls under the towns Capital Improvement plans.

**Rec Assistant Position**

Jenn Kirkland explained that during the summer it is often difficult for the three full time staff members to get to every program. Staff in the department like to support all of the running programs and visit as much as possible, but sometimes smaller issues come up that don’t allow for the staff to attend and spend as much time as they would like at certain programs. A rec assistant would act as a float between all programs, they would receive daily / weekly assignments and act as an “on call” extra set of hands. This position would also be responsible for taking pictures and then posting to our social media. Jenn explained getting pictures up of what programs are doing on social media is a goal for the department.

Motion to approve the new Recreation Assistant position. Second – Dowd. Unanimous vote in favor.

**Program/Summer update**

Jenn Kirkland told the commission that summer registration opened yesterday (February 25th). She was pleased with opening day registrations. She explained that families are not registering for programs as far in advance as they used to. Often people are very last minute with their registrations. She will monitor registrations but feels hopeful for a good season.

Jenn Kirkland discussed a change to the summer playground program. For years this program has run only half day. This year the Department is going to try out a full day model. She explained that people would have the option to go half day (9am – 12PM) or add on an afternoon session (12pm – 4pm). There is also an option for an extra hour in the morning that they had implemented a few years ago.

Other winter programs are running as planned with skiing and winter basketball being the departments busiest and highest priority programs.

**Fields/Facilities**

Earl Storey gave a brief update on the fields. Fields are closed through March and probably the beginning of April per usual.

Jenn Kirkland mentioned that on a future agenda there might have to be some discussion around the use at the cricket pitch. The issue is that there are too many people trying to schedule the same timeframes. She explained that she would try to mitigate the problem but it might be something that comes back before the board.

**Revolving Account Balance**

Jenn Kirkland reported the revolving account balance was stable at $175,000.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.