

**Recreation Advisory Board Minutes 3/17/2022**

In-Person and Virtually Held Meeting

Called to Order at: 6:03 PM

**Attendees:** Tracy Murphy, Anne Sigsbee, Sharon Basso, Kyle Wibby, Carol Counihan, Joan Francolini (Joan left at 6:45pm), Chad Small, Evan Lagasse

Recreation Director - Alan Harrison

Nauset Regional High School Representative - Will Bilowz

Select Board: Meff Runyon

**Public Comment:** Meff Runyon spoke during public comment to provide an update on the Select Board Meeting that took place on March 16th. The Select Board approved postponing the recommendation of increasing the Director's hours and hiring a second full-time person until an Organization Study can be taken. At the same time, a position can be used immediately for hiring someone for the summer using the funds already approved. They found there was no point in making permanent hires until after the study.

Meff also noted that John Kelly is working with Mike Ford to find a solution to keep the revolving fund as a carryover for the Recreation Department, without the fund having to be used by the end of the year. More details to come at a later date.

**Approve Minutes of January meeting:**

Sharon 1st, Chad 2nd – 6 approved - 1 abstained)

**Director's Report: Submitted in advance**

- Alan received three adult volunteers for the Track & Field programs
- Elementary School Tennis Program - Alan picks the kids up from the school, tennis then starts at 3:15.
- Alan has followed up with Knucklebones and other groups
- June 4th Community Event, Alan said he has some and could use some more volunteers
- Surveys: Alan & Kyle discussed using Focus Groups of parents to get real feedback. All parents of participants will be invited to the Focus Groups. Looking to get constructive feedback. Alan stated that the Focus Groups will begin soon, in order to capture Spring feedback. No motion was taken, as Alan committed to making the Focus Groups happen for spring feedback and he stated that a motion would not be needed.

Tracy requested that Alan included the updated registration numbers in Alan's submitted report.

*Action Item: Alan said the numbers will be included starting in the next report*

Sharon inquired about the details on the revolving fund. Alan stated that he did not receive the information from finance.

*Action Item: Tracy to follow-up with finance*

### **High School - Update/Presentation**

- Will presented the idea of having National Honor Society participants volunteering to help with REC. The entire Committee and Alan endorsed the idea, and commended Will for his work. All volunteers would be working with Adult Supervision and it was agreed that volunteers could be from anyone who attends Nauset Regional High School.

*Action Item: Will will contact Alan to get this program up and running.*

### **CPC Updates:**

- Master Plan on Eldredge – Approved by CPC for funding. Tracy had positive conversations with the Regional School Committee & OES. Tracy asked OES for support & a liason. Tracy was optimistic about working with OES as they have agreed to the firehouse study and have already submitted some ideas: moving the tennis courts, building a multi-generation obstacle course, including walking and biking paths, adding public restrooms and water stations and building outdoor natural playspace.
- Pickleball Courts - no firm has bid on the project.

### **Community Center Task Force Update:**

Kyle stated that the project is now up & running with the addition of the paid consultant. They are now making big strides in collecting information to come up with a general concept and identify potential land.

### **Unmet Needs:**

- Consensus that basketball could be an option, yet without getting up to proper staffing levels, this would not be realistic.
- Tracy said Kevin Harrington, Assistant Sports Coach at NRHS and Owner of Simms Basketball Academy is open to the idea
- Alan stated that Kevin needs to lead the charge on getting a high school basketball program up and running. Alan said this has to be coordinated among the REC Departments in all the towns that go to Nauset and a best practice is how the Middle School handled the request for recreation support during Covid. Alan can't nor should not take this on, as it is a big coordination project that needs to be run from the High School.

### **Staffing Support**

- Discussion on the Select Boards decision not to pursue RACs support of the recommendation to fund increased hours for the Director and funding a full time support person.
- Lots of discussion on the lack of clarity around the decision, the incremental time to get this done and just getting something done and moving forward versus waiting for perfect. Anne stated that we were making a lot of progress with Alan providing a well documented list of what can be accomplished by increasing his hours and adding staff. Tracy was concerned that without the study RAC the REC department might not get the right amount of staffing.
- Kyle made the motion and Ann seconded the motion to: Write a letter in support of RACs position of increasing the director's hours and hiring a full-time assistant.

*Motion to Support writing a letter to select board Passed 4 in favor 2 against*

Alan asked if Kyle could write the letter, and Kyle stated that it has to be captured in the minutes and then the committee can act upon the motion.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- Community Center Update

**Motion to adjourn** – Sharon 1st/ Tracy 2nd motion - unanimously 7:27pm

**Next meeting** – April 21st, 6:00pm