

GILFORD PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 6, 2020

Present: Herb Greene, Thom Francoeur, Tracey Blandford, Lisa Manz-Buckley, David Smith, Peter Allen, Rick Nelson, and Miriam York

Excused: Jim Glover

The meeting was held at Lincoln Park and was called to order by Thom Francoeur at 5:30.

1. Tracey and Peter were appointed as voting members until Rick arrived then Tracey remained as a voting member.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the June 1, 2020 were unanimously approved by voice vote.

3. **Program Assistant Update:**

Our candidate for this position decided to not accept the position due to the uncertainties of the pandemic. It was decided to advertise again for a part-time assistant. All agreed that we may need to re-evaluate the position and consider looking into a full-time time position if we can't find a qualified candidate willing to work part-time.

4. **Programs Update:**

Herb reviewed the Director's report – some of the summer programs are up and running or are scheduled to begin. Challenger Soccer would like to move a second session of camp in August to the Village Field as the field in Meredith is closed to their program this summer. There will be room for approximately 20 Gilford players to join in and Herb will send out a notice for our residents. The Commission agreed on this.

5. **Gilford Old Home Day:**

Has been cancelled for this year due to the pandemic. The down payment for the fireworks will be applied to next year's celebration.

6. **Gilford Beach:**

Things are up and running but no swim lessons at this time. There is a need for an extra staff member in the afternoon to monitor the raft. The playground equipment

has been installed and the sand and signage will be in place soon. It is still off limits at this time.

7. Facility closures:

The basketball courts and the playground equipment are closed at the Village Field and the Beach. There is signage to that effect.

8. Facility Use Requests:

Herb received a request for a wedding to be held at Lincoln Park on a Saturday from 1:30-2:30, with a limit of 15 people. They understand that parking is limited and the park will not be closed to the public at that time. The Commission approved with one no vote by Thom.

Cal Ripken wants to begin play and was given the green light providing they follow the rules for safety in light of the pandemic.

The Lakes Region United Soccer team also wants to practice on our fields and the same applies to their use.

9. Lincoln Park:

The trees at Lincoln Park were discussed and Herb explained the new rules and discussion ensued on how to open up more views.

Mr. Terry Pratt, who lives on the west side of Lincoln Park spoke to us about folks stopping to look at the view from the parking lot when they aren't able to go down the stairs. The view up there is limited and we need to take that into consideration when doing any cutting or trimming.

10: Other business:

Herb had a request from an individual about having a bike park in Gilford. More information is needed and Herb will get back to that individual.

Next meeting will be held on **August 3, 2020 at Lincoln Park**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42

Respectfully submitted:

Miriam A. York
Secretary

Enclosure: Directors Report

Director's Report for July 6, 2020

Programs

After a lengthy hiatus for most programming due to COVID-19, we are looking forward to a return of many programs starting in July. Although we have had to cancel some summer programs, including the first session of swim lessons, our GPS Soccer Camp and our Funtastic Workshop, we are still planning to run many others, although with modifications. In order to comply with the guidance from the Governor's office regarding Summer Day Camp programs and Amateur and Youth Sports, many programs have reduced numbers and specific check-in procedures. I have been doing my best to continually update our Summer Program Brochure and our Department website as things have changed. Our upcoming programs through the end of June and the month of July include:

- Shooter's Gold Camp from June 29 – July 2
- Tennis Lessons on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from June 30 – July 30
- Wicked Cool for Kids Minecraft Camp from July 6 – July 10
- Week 1 of LRRA Horsemanship Camp from July 6 – July 9
- Challenger Soccer Camp from July 13 – July 17
- Beach Grab 'N Go Arts and Crafts Program on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from July 14 – August 6
- Week 2 of LRRA Horsemanship Camp from July 14 – July 17
- Swim Lessons Session II (tentative) from July 20 – August 7
- Week 3 of LRRA Horsemanship Camp from July 28 – July 31
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The Gilford Community Band is still hoping to be able to offer a couple, limited member, socially distancing safe performance this summer. Band Director Lyvie Beyrent is working on the dates and will be getting back to me once they are set.

Lastly, the Board of Selectmen made the difficult decision to officially cancel Gilford Old Home Day for 2020, following a recommendation made by the Old Home Day Committee. Although heartbroken having to make such a recommendation, the Old Home Day Committee felt the potential health hazards to residents and volunteers as well as the obstacles presented by COVID-19 were too much to ignore.

Facilities

All playground equipment, swings and basketball courts at both the Village Field and the Town Beach remain closed and are posted as such. Guidance on these facilities continues to change and they may be re-opened at a later date.

Following the decision of the Board of Selectmen, the swim raft was put in at the beach in early June and the beach restrooms were re-opened. Currently, the Town is contracting to have the restrooms sanitized twice a day, until we receive the sanitizing units the town has ordered.

DPW has conducted the site prep for our playground project at the Town Beach and we anticipate the installation of the new equipment to begin the week of June 29th.

Sincerely,
Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director