

# **GILFORD PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**September 8, 2020**

**Present:** Herb Greene, Jim Glover, Rick Nelson, Peter Allen and Tracey Blandford

**Excused:** Miriam York, Dave Smith, Thom Francoeur and Lisa Manz-Buckley

The meeting was held on Tuesday due to the Labor Day Holiday, at the Gilford Town Beach and was called to order by Rick Nelson at 5:35.

1. Rick appointed Peter and Tracey as voting members for the meeting.
2. Minutes:

Rick made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2020 meeting as written. Jim seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

### **3. Program Assistant Update:**

Herb received interest from two candidates. Rick suggested Herb set-up interviews around his schedule and then reach out to Commission members to see if any are available to sit-in on the interviews.

### **4. Programs Update:**

Herb reviewed the Director's report. Summer programs wrapped up well and Youth Soccer started this evening. Herb and Sue are also looking into offering a fall hiking program where participants can safely social distance.

### **5. Gilford Beach:**

Herb provided the Commission with a brief re-cap of how the beach season went, including the number of rescues and first aid incidents. After the Board of Selectmen approved testing the water, Herb has tested the water four times. The first two tests came back clean, but the third test did result in a bacteria advisory. Herb re-tested the water the following day and the results came back clean. Herb will be conducting the final test for this season later this week. Herb reviewed the anticipated timeframe to remove the swim lines, swim raft and JIM buoys. The hood ventilation system at the Concession Stand needs to be replaced. The Board of Selectmen will be reviewing a request to move forward with this project at their next meeting. Herb discussed a request he received from a resident who would like to see us provide water wheelchairs at the beach to allow easier water access for individuals with disabilities. The Commission had concerns over added liability and how much staff time might be required. Herb also expressed

concern over lack of storage for such equipment. Herb will talk to Scott Dunn about the Commission's questions. Herb also discussed looking into some minor changes to the beach rules. He'll discuss these suggestions with Scott Dunn, but asked the Commission to think on them for a potential recommendation next meeting.

#### **6. 2021 Budget Discussion**

Herb reviewed a number of items to potentially be included in next year's budget request and the Commission provided their feedback. Herb also reviewed the schedule for budget meetings moving forward.

#### **7. Facility Use Requests:**

Advantage Kids is looking to use two tennis courts for Friday evening lessons through the end of September. The Winnepesaukee Muskrats are looking to use the Varsity Baseball Field on a Sunday in mid-October. Fay's Boatyard is requesting to hold an employee party at the Town Beach. All three requests were approved.

#### **10: Other business:**

Next meeting will be held on October 5, 2020. Location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28pm

Respectfully submitted:

Herb Greene, Director of Parks and Recreation

Enclosure:

Director's Report

## **Director's Report for September 8, 2020**

### **Programs**

Our limited summer programming season has come to an end. The month of August saw the end of a number of ongoing summer programs, including our Grab and Go Arts and Crafts program which ended on August 6<sup>th</sup> and our Swim Conditioning program which ended on August 7<sup>th</sup>. We also added two additional weeks of tennis lessons, to make-up days which had been canceled due to rain earlier in the summer. That program finally wrapped up on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Our second session of Challenger Soccer Camp was held the first week of August. We had one day canceled due to weather, but they were able to offer extended days the rest of the session to make it up. Overall, the camp ran very well. Our fourth week of the Horsemanship Camp was canceled due to a scheduling conflict the instructor had, but we were able to move those participants into the 5<sup>th</sup> session, which was held the second week of August. The Community Band held their second and final limited concert on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Lyvie reported they had better attendance than their first concert and the crowd appreciated their show. We ended up choosing not to run the Annual Water Carnival over concerns about social distancing. The numbers for the programs we held the last month are as follows:

- Grab 'N Go Arts and Crafts Program – 15 Total Participants
- Swim Conditioning Program – 10 Participants
- Challenger Soccer Camp Session II – 22 Participants
- Youth Tennis Lessons – 32 Participants (Program Full)
- Adult Tennis Lessons – 5 Participants
- Week 5 of LRRR Horsemanship Camp – 6 Participants (Session Full)
- Community Band Concert – About 50-60 Spectators in Attendance

Planning is currently underway for our Youth Soccer Program, which will begin after Labor Day. We have a number of safety procedures in place to help mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. We went over the procedures in detail with coaches at our Coaches Meeting held on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Overall, our numbers will be down from last season. Sue and I are evaluating other programs we typically run through the fall to see what if any we feel we can safely offer. We are also limited on what we can currently offer due to restricted access to indoor facilities.

### **Facilities**

We are coordinating with the Matt from Buildings and Grounds to try and schedule a replacement of the hood ventilation system at the Concession Stand at the Town Beach. Our hope is to have this project completed by the end of the fall.

We will be loaning a large number of picnic tables from the Town Beach to the School District to assist them with providing out space to their students throughout the fall. There is a chance that they may look to continue utilizing them again through the spring.

I've spoken with DPW about assisting with the removal of a couple dead trees along the parking lot at the Village Field, as well as thinning the trees along the shoreline at Lincoln Park. The hope is that they'll be able get that taken care of this fall.

Sincerely,

Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director

