

# **GILFORD PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**August 3, 2020**

**Present:** Herb Greene, Peter Allen, Tracey Blandford, David Smith,  
Rick Nelson, and Miriam York

Excused: Jim Glover, Lisa Manz-Buckley, and Thom Francoeur

The meeting was held at Lincoln Park and was called to order by Rick Nelson at 5:35.

1. Tracey and Peter were appointed as voting members.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the July 6, 2020 were unanimously approved by voice vote.

3. **Guest:** Brian Faenza presented his ideas for a bike park in Gilford. He explained what they were in various parts of the country and also ones in Keene and Franklin. We agreed that there was a real interest in biking in Gilford but were unsure where we could put one and how it could be maintained. We asked Brian to get others interested in the project together to see what could be done for fund raising and possible locations. We are not in a position to take on any more projects at this time.

4. **Program Assistant Update:**

No applications have been received at this point.

5. **Programs Update:**

Herb reviewed the Director's report – Herb handed out the P&R recommendations for the COVID-19 safety procedure for the upcoming Youth Soccer season. There will be a coaches meeting prior to the first practice scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Facility Closures:**

There are no closures at this time but there is signage up by the BB court and the playground at the Village Field and the beach for safety precautions.

## **7. Gilford Beach:**

The grab and go arts program was poorly attended, they will try offering it in the afternoon to see if that works. The lifeguards have been doing a swim conditioning program that has been well received by those who have participated.. They are planning a modified water carnival for next week.

## **8. Facility Use Requests:**

Camp Resilience will use the beach on Friday and expect about 10 – 15 participants.

There was a request from the Carew family to hold their wedding rehearsal dinner at the beach. This is during regular beach hours on the Friday of Labor Day weekend. They will have to abide by the beach rules and will not be given special treatment.

## **10: Other business:**

Next meeting will be held on **September 8, 2020 at Gilford Beach**  
**Please note that is a Tuesday meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42

Respectfully submitted:

Miriam A. York  
Secretary

Enclosure:

Director's Report

## Director's Report for August 3, 2020

### **Programs**

Despite a couple of canceled programs during the month of July (Swim Lessons, Red Sox Bus Trip, etc.), we were happy to be able to offer a number of programs throughout the month, most with reduced numbers and modifications. Our tennis lessons have been running all month. Lessons are held one morning a week on either Tuesdays or Thursdays for ½ hour and limited to 2 participants per instructor. We've combined this lessons with a ½ hour yoga mindfulness program, which most participants are enjoying. We ran our one-week Shooter's Gold Basketball Camp on the outdoor court at the Gilford Middle School. This camp had limited numbers per session and dealt with the rain the first couple of days, but still saw good attendance. Our one-week Wicked Cool for Kids Minecraft Camp was held in the Gilford Middle School Cafeteria. Even though we had to limit the numbers, the camp filled up and most of the feedback we've received has been positive. During both the Shooter's Gold and Minecraft Camps, the School District required a Parks and Rec Staff member on site to ensure that the camps were adhering to the State guidelines for summer camps. Sue and I split these duties and handled the check-in procedures each day. Our one-week Challenger Soccer Camp ran well, with each session losing one day due to severe weather. As a result they extended each session the remainder of the week to make up for the lost time. We've run the first three weeks of our Horsemanship Camps through Lakes Region Riding Academy. Although the sessions are running with reduced numbers, they've gone very well and we haven't yet had to turn anyone away. We've begun running a Grab-and-Go Arts and Crafts program at the beach with underwhelming results thus far. We're going to change the time of the program to later in the afternoon for the final two weeks to see if we get more interest when the beach is busier. Although Swim Lessons have been canceled, we are offering a limited Swim Conditioning program that can be done safely in a social distanced environment. Although numbers are low in this program, the few that are participating are really enjoying it. The Community band held their first limited concert of the season on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although attendance was much lower than normal, Lyvie said those in attendance really appreciated the offering. The numbers for the programs we held the last month are as follows:

- Shooter's Gold Camp – 42 Total Participants (1 of 2 Sessions Full)
- Youth Tennis Lessons – 32 Participants (Program Full)
- Adult Tennis Lessons – 5 Participants
- Wicked Cool for Kids Minecraft Camp – 8 Participants (Program Full)
- Week 1 of LRRA Horsemanship Camp – 5 Participants
- Challenger Soccer Camp – 44 Total Participants
- Grab 'N Go Arts and Crafts Program – 9 Participants so far
- Week 2 of LRRA Horsemanship Camp – 5 Participants
- Swim Conditioning Program – 4 Participants
- Week 3 of LRRA Horsemanship Camp – 4 Participants
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We still have a few more camps and events coming up for the month of August. This will include a modified Water Carnival event at the beach with socially distanced activities planned. Unfortunately, we also had another program canceled when our Archery Instructor decided to cancel lessons after we had already moved them to August. Additionally, we're sending out a survey to youth soccer parents and coaches to gauge their interest and comfort level in participating in the program as we look to make plans for this fall. I continue to update our Summer Program Brochure and our Department website as things change. Our upcoming programs through the end of July and the month of August include:

- Tennis Lessons run through July 30<sup>th</sup>
- Story Walk (co-sponsored with the Library) on July 31<sup>st</sup>
- Grab 'N Go Arts and Crafts Program at the Beach continues through August 6
- Swim Conditioning Program Continues through August 7
- Week 4 of LRRA Horsemanship Camp from August 3 – August 6
- Week 2 of Challenger Soccer Camp from August 3 – August 7
- Water Carnival at the Beach scheduled for the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>
- Week 5 of LRRA Horsemanship Camp from August 10 – August 13
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Band Limited Concert on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Facilities**

Following the decision of the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, signs were ordered to re-open the Playgrounds, Swings and Basketball Courts. The Playground and Swings at the Beach are being sanitized twice a day, at the same time the bathrooms are done. The equipment at the Village Field will not be sanitized. The signage indicates this information and instructs users to use at their own risk. Likewise, signage at the basketball courts encourages social distancing and instructs users to use at their own risk.

Sincerely,

Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director