**GILFORD PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**October 3, 2022**

**Present:**  Thom Francoeur, Peter Allen, Lisa Manz-Buckley, Jim Glover and Herb Greene

Excused: Dave Smith, Tracey Blandford, Miriam York and Rick Nelson

The meeting was held at the Town Hall meeting room and was called to order by Vice Chair, Thom Francoeur at 5:30 p.m.

Thom appointed Peter and Lisa as a voting members for this meeting.

1. **Minutes:**

Following a brief discussion, it was pointed out that there was an error in the minutes from the August 29th meeting. Lincoln Park had been referenced regarding a request to use a parking lot for overflow parking from a wedding event, where the actual request was to use the parking lot at Stonewall Park. Jim made a motion to amend the minutes to correct this error. Peter seconded and minutes were approved as amended.

**2. Appointments:**

Andrew Trimble and John McKenzie were on hand to discuss their proposal to build a street hockey rink somewhere in the Gilford Village. They discussed the decrease they’ve seen in youth hockey numbers and how a street hockey rink would help introduce hockey to the youth as a low cost option compared to ice hockey. They also spoke about street hockey events they have helped run in the past and how successful they have been. They explained that they were willing to help fundraise for the construction of such a facility. Herb explained the current plans to put in a hard surface at the Arthur A. Tilton Ice Rink in the future and inquired whether that might be able to fill this need. He also explained the lack of space to develop any new facilities at the Village Field and discussed other possible locations in the Village. He also explained that the decision to use Town property for such a project would ultimately be up to the Board of Selectmen for approval. After a brief discussion, the Commission expressed support for such a project, if the correct location could be found. Andrew and John thanked the Commission for their time and said they would do a little more investigating into possible locations for this project and would be in touch.

Dan Barnhart from “The Plate Lunch”, who leases the Concession Stand at the Town Beach was on hand to discuss his operations and issues that were brought up by the Food Service License Inspector at the end of this season. The two main concerns are a need for a three-bay sink for sanitation, in addition to the hand wash sink (there is currently a two-bay sink on site) and the need for commercial grade refrigerators and freezers. Currently, home grade appliances are on site. Both the cost and lack of space, are significant roadblocks to correct these issues for this coming summer; particularly in light of plans to replace the beach building following next season. Dan also explained his concerns with both the lack or air conditioning in the facility as well as poor ventilation, which has caused him some difficulty. All of these issues are things to consider when planning the construction of a new facility. Herb said he would discuss these issues with the Town Administrator to see how the Town would like to move forward for next season. The Commission thanked Dan for coming in as well as for all his hard work at the Beach over the past 5 seasons.

**3. Programs Update:**

Herb reviewed the Directors report. Youth Soccer has been going very well, with on a couple of weather related cancellations. The program is scheduled to wrap-up with the end of season round robin on October 15th. Jenny has started a new Adult Pickleball program, which has been very popular thus far. She is also planning to run a winter sports conditioning program in conjunction with the Gilford Youth Center starting in early November. The Annual Halloween Party is scheduled for Friday, October 28th and volunteers are always welcome. Youth Basketball Registrations will open at the end of October. Gunstock has raised the starting age for their Outreach programs, so our program will now be open to children in grades 3-8 instead of grades 1-8 as it had been in recent years. Registration for this program opened today.

**5. Beach:**

The Swim Raft and JIM Buoys were removed on September 23rd. Matt Gault also began the repairs on the swim raft that day and finished them the following Monday. Herb has met with Peter Walker from VHB Environmental Services to look at the sink holes on the nature trail near the Adder Hole. He thinks this is something our DPW might be able to fix on their own, but was not sure what permits may be required from DES. He offered to inquire with DES on our behalf and is awaiting their response. Herb said we are no longer opening the gate or restrooms daily as the weather has now cooled off and we’ll be looking to get the water turned off and the building boarded up following Columbus Day.

**6.**  **Village Field:**

Public Works removed the old dugouts on the Varsity Baseball field and construction of the new dugouts is well under way. The concrete work has been completed and the framing is close to finished. Once that has been done, they need to be painted and have the roofing put on. The hope is to have them completely finished by the end of October. The Board Selectmen approved the request to re-paint the storage building at the Village Field to match the dugouts. The hope is to have this done the same time the dugouts are painted.

**7. 2023 Budget:**

Herb gave an update on the approved CIP for this year, which includes both the Beach Bath House replacement and the Ice Rink hard surface project. He also let the Commission know that CIP Committee Chair, Larry Routhier, had inquired about possibly paving the parking lot at the Village Field. The Commission will take that suggestion into consideration for future requests. Herb discussed the upcoming schedule for the budget season.

1. **Facility Use Requests:**

No requests at this time.

1. **Other business:**

Next meeting is scheduled for **November 7, 2022 at 5:30.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Greene

Director of Parks and Recreation

Enclosures: Director’s Report

Amended Minutes of August 29, 2022