

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

16 UNION STREET HAMILTON, MA 01982

DIRECTOR SEAN TIMMONS

TELEPHONE: 978-468-2178 MEETING MINUTES WEBSITE WWW.HWRECREATION.COM

MEETING DATE: Monday October 30, 2023 PRESENT:

> Steve Ozahowski, Chairperson Daniel Curran John Cusolito Len Dolan Sean Timmons, Recreation Director

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

1. Minutes – Dan makes motion to approve minutes from 9/18. 2nd- Len All in Favor 4-0

2. Little League Improvements/Requests

Little League President Tim Fazio presented some plans that little league has to improve fields and asked for the committees vote to support these planned improvements. The first of the improvements would be for Wildes and Vitale fields. Little League would like to level these fields and redo the sod and add water access behind the pitching mounds. Little League would then like to do some hardwire electrical work to the scoreboards at all fields besides Black so that coaches will no longer need to change out batteries to run the scoreboards. Tim explained to the committee that there is no feasible way to hardwire the scoreboard at Black so it would remain on battery power. Little League would then like to add water access close to the dugout at Patton's Little League field. The final large ask was to place bleachers similar to those at Cheeseman on both first and third base sides of Black. Tim and Sean had discussed prior to the meeting whether or not the Recreation department could contribute any funds to help with these improvements. Based on this discussion and knowing the total cost of all project is around \$30-\$35 thousand Tim asked the committee to approve \$5,000 of recreation funds to help with the improvements.

Dan makes motion to support the Little League improvements as present by Tim Fazio. 2nd- Len All in Favor 4-0

Dan makes motion for the Recreation Department to contribute \$5,000 to the Little League improvements. 2nd- Len All in Favor 4-0

3. Patton Park Summer Program

Sean had discussed the topic of the Patton Park Summer Program at our previous meeting. He was exploring ideas of how we could make the registration process more seamless for families and less competitive feeling. Since it was agreed that the program could not accommodate any additional children but the program was at capacity with lengthy waitlists this past summer Sean told the committee that he plans to make the following changes for summer 2024. Registration for Patton Park summer program will begin approximately one month earlier than in previous years. The Recreation Department will set one night aside as Patton Park Registration Night. Each age group will have its own registration time with each age group opening up 15 minutes after the previous one. This will allow families to focus on one child at a time if they have multiples to register. A second major change for the summer of 2024 is that the deposit amount will increase from \$25 per child per session to \$60 per child per session. The deposits are non-refundable. The final change we have made is in regards to the refund policy. We will have a refund policy by which the longer someone waits to back out of a session the less money they will receive back.

4. Turf Field Project

Sean gave a brief update on the Turf Field project. The project is on track to go out for bid by the new year with hopes of beginning the work this spring. They have been given an extension by the conservation committee so that they can get permitting for items that were not permitted for originally such as the tennis courts. If the project stays on its current timetable we could see some athletic activities return to the high school facilities next September.



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5. Recreation Needs Assessment

Sean shared with the committee that our department had sent around a Recreation Needs Assessment to the community. We received about 100 responses to the survey and are currently compiling the data to see how we can shape/reshape programs to fit within what the community is looking for.

6. HVAC Capital Project

Sean informed the committee that the HVAC system at the Rec Center is in need of replacement. He will be compiling quotes for a new system and then making a capital request for 1 or 2 new HVAC units. He is also exploring to see if any of the new options could include AC for the gym during the hot summer months.

Respectfully submitted Danielle Kiely- Administrative Assistant