

**Portland Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 12, 2024**

**Buck-Foreman Community Center**

**Parks & Recreation Office**

**265 Main Street**

**Present:** Commission Members: Karen Agogliati, Chair, Chris Donahue, Deb Rooth, Amie Leary, Jillian Crawford - Alternate

**Also:** Andy Dionne, Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Tripp, Town Council Liaison (arrived at 6:25 pm)

**1. Call to order**

Karen Agogliati called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call/Appointment of Alternates**

No action.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Deb Rooth made a motion to approve the Agenda for February 12, 2024 as presented and seconded by Chris Donahue. The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes – Regular Mtg. January 8, 2024**

Deb Rooth made a motion to approve minutes for Regular Meeting on January 8, 2024 as presented and seconded by Chris Donahue. The motion was approved unanimously.

**5. Seasonal Events**

Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled on March 23, 2024 at 11:00am with March 24, 2024 as the raindate beginning at 1:00p.m. Andy Dionne showed samples of the signs. 8 signs each for “Start” and “Finish,” which can be used repeatedly, will be ordered. 2 of each age group signs will be ordered. Lanes will be set up east/west from the storage building and will be marked with rope and stakes. More stakes are needed. Commission members are asked to purchase candy. Andy will send an email for volunteers to fill eggs. Candy is due at the meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Angela Aresco will be helping and Courtney from Youth Services will have a craft for children to make. Marketing tri-fold was suggested to be ready and printed so that it can be distributed at the Easter Egg Hunt. Parks and Rec will have an information table set up.

Sponsor letters have been sent out for summer concert series. Dates are July 16, 23, 30, August 6, and 13.

## **6. Park and Field Updates**

Andy Dionne thanked Rob and Erwin from Public Works for installing the alarm at the concession stand. It was suggested to post “Under Surveillance” signs there to discourage vandalism and theft. For Middlesex Ave., Irrigation is next on the list but parking lot needs to be done first. Paving work will have to be contracted out. A potential donation for program for trees and benches at the Portland Rec. Complex was discussed. Trees purchased through donations will be identified so that donors have a selection to choose from. A layout for the trees and benches will be available. Discussion about lighting at Middlesex Ave. is ongoing as there is no electrician on town staff.

Sign sponsorships have begun for sports. 5 businesses have applied thus far.

Andy Dionne said that there is no update on the new fence for the Rec Complex.

“Buddy Bench” was discussed as an inclusivity item for children.

## **7. Parks and Recreation Programs**

Andy is happy with the way the Basketball Program is running. Registration is open for Kiddie Camp (7 week program) and Slamma Jamma (3 1-week programs). Picture Day will take place this coming weekend.

Skyhawks (Youth) Basketball for Kindergarten through Grade 2 has begun and is held on Saturdays at Gildersleeve School through February 10, 2024. There are 4 programs.

Kids Blast Program is for Grades K-6 Monday – Friday at Brownstone Intermediate School. 39 families have registered for the P.M. program with the highest daily enrollment of 20 children. P.M. program takes place from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. The A.M. program is held from 7:00 – 8:00a.m.

Adult Drop-in Volleyball is scheduled on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Gildersleeve School. Program is free to Portland residents and \$20.00 for non-residents. Floor is repaired at Gildersleeve.

There was a discussion about the possibility of 2 schools closing and how the recreation programs will be affected. Discussion will be ongoing.

## **8. Budget and Capital Needs**

Budget Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Andy has updated the chart showing current cost estimates. Public hearings for budget will take place in mid-March.

**9. BOS Liaison Discussion**

Jim Tripp had nothing to report.

**10. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**11. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Donahue and seconded by Deb Rooth. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dawn Guite*

Recording Secretary