

Portland Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 12, 2023

Buck-Foreman Community Center

Parks & Recreation Office

265 Main Street

Present: Commission Members: Chris Donahue, Kevin Backman, Brian O'Connor

Also: Andy Dionne, Parks and Recreation Director

Absent: Karen Agogliati, Chair, Deb Rooth, Ralph Zampano, Peter Filanda, Alt., Amanda Herzog, Alt.

1. Call to order

Brian O'Connor made a motion to seat Chris Donahue for Karen Agogliati at tonight's meeting and seconded by Kevin Backman. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chris Donahue called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Appointment of Alternates

Chris Donahue is seated for Karen Agogliati.

3. Approval of Minutes – Special Mtg. May 22, 2023

Brian O'Connor made a motion to approve minutes for Special Meeting on May 22 , 2023 as amended and seconded by. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. AEDs

A town resident suggested that AEDs be installed at the new park as a majority of people are there. Andy Dionne researched and received information from one vendor. Models per unit range from \$1,215.96 to \$42,566.20 and do not include installation. Installation requires a heated wall cabinet. There is a concern for vandalism. It was suggested that grant money pay for the AEDs as there is \$11,000 in the Parks and Rec budget for equipment purchases. Additional research is needed for replacement cost, AED certification and inside building units.

5. Easter Egg Hunt

The debrief for the Easter Egg Hunt requested more candy. 4,000 – 5,000K pieces will supply 15 pieces for each child based on 300 headcount. The event should have been better organized. Starting places should be at the ends of the fields for all age groups. The Lions Club Leo's will be asked to do staging, aligning age groups in appropriate spots. A megaphone will help with organization for the event.

6. Field Usage Permits

A draft for the permits will be available at the next meeting for review. There was a discussion about usage costs per day; \$50.00. Research will be done for pricing for out of town leagues and independent groups including usage per person. The rental agreement will be separate from the permits.

7. High School Soccer

Andy Dionne will follow up with Frank Cardona regarding Soccer. Junior Varsity field is not a regulation soccer field. This field can be made larger – another several feet.

8. Portland Rec. Complex

The Boy Scouts are building 4 picnic tables which should be completed by the end of the month. Cement for the pads will be poured on June 19th.

a) Basketball Court

Andy Dionne provided estimates for repurposing of courts in Lebanon and Monroe, CT. Lebanon spent around \$100K to reclaim two regulation courts. Monroe recently looked into reclaiming two of their outdoor courts, and they received three quotes that were over \$300K for each. Costs to build a brand new basketball court may be higher than the cost of reclaiming older courts.

Portland Travel Basketball League is willing to contribute toward the installation of a basketball court at the Portland Rec. Complex, and it will be invited to a PRC meeting for a discussion. Other funding, LoCIP and EZIQC were mentioned as was revision to the Capital Improvement Plan.

b) Soccer Field Fence

Andy Dionne provided pricing from the State contract bid site. The average price for a 4 foot chain link fence is \$27.38 per linear foot. 228 linear feet will cost \$8,500. There may be a vendor in town that can provide better pricing.

9. Middlesex Ave. Improvements

Andy Dionne distributed a handout from 2019 with information about the original Middlesex Ave. improvement plan.

In-house work (DPW) is an option. Improvements will be ADA accessibility and an entranceway for DPW and contractor vehicles.

10. 2023 “Come on Over” 5K and 2.1 Mile Fitness Walk.

The event is scheduled on October 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (2024 will be the 20th Anniversary.) The timing vendor is secured. Jesse is working on the 5K. Games were discussed for the event; i.e., Corn Hole and other Fall activities.

11. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Other

It was requested that the splash pad be kept open after Labor Day; weather dependent. The water bill that is paid from the Parks and Recs budget is expensive, so keeping the splash pad open after Labor Day may not be an option.

The irrigation system at the new park needs to be looked at. Grass is dried out. A longer cycle may be beneficial.

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Back and Brian O’Connor seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Guite

Recording Secretary