

Recreation Department Meeting
23 March 2024
10:00 AM
Zoom

In Attendance via Zoom: Anne Jobin-Picard, Ruth Casey, Laura Miraldi, Mike Simanskas, Kathy Simanskas, Carmine Centrella, Mary Brennan-Centrella, Barbara Callahan, Andrea Carbone

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Co-Chair Anne Jobin-Picard.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** It was clarified that the tee shirt discussion on the agenda was for a generic shirt, not an eclipse-themed shirt, as noted.
3. **Activity Planning and Discussion:**
 - *Easter Egg Hunt* - It was agreed that the Easter Egg Hunt was well received and executed and that the joint-venture was a success. A recap of the details of the event will be attached as an exhibit to the minutes and serve as an overview for the event next year. The recap will also include lessons learned, which were noted as starting the planning earlier in the year to ensure there are adequate donations and limited expenses, to possibly request the waste bins installed in the park earlier, and to track the attendees more accurately.
 - *Thank You Letters* - Letters of thanks will be prepared for Vickie Buswell, Patti Creller, and their families, as well as Lake Champlain Chocolates. Drafts will be circulated for review prior to being mailed. Anne Jobin-Picard has blank cards, should they be needed.
 - *Fridays in the Park* - Continued progress on the development of this activity was made, including the possibility of hosting an event in conjunction with a sponsor, such as Cabot and a tie-in with national cheese day. Laura Miraldi suggested that the group not declare an actual event to be held/advertised at one of the gatherings until the initiative is up and running, which was agreed upon by the group. A call out for talent to perform at the events will take place via Front Porch Forum at the end of April, coordinated by Anne Jobin-Picard and Carmine Centrella. Finally, a discussion of the frequency of the event was held and it was decided to trial the program once per month to begin, shifting the day to Thursday in order to kick off the weekend instead of Friday when people often have plans/company during the summer months. The group settled on the event taking place on the Third Thursdays.
4. **Administrative**
 - *Contact List* - The contact list includes everyone that has participated in meetings over the past few months and will be updated to include the roles of leadership.
 - *Activity + Photo Waiver* - An overview of the Selectboard's decision to continue using the existing waiver with an added photography clause for every Recreation Department event and activity was presented. It was decided that the Recreation Department would seek time at the April 17, 2024 Selectboard meeting to discuss the topic, as there is substantial support to not have a waiver required at every type of event. The group will consider the topic and continue the conversation at the next meeting in two weeks in preparation for the Selectboard meeting discussion.
 - *Pickleball Waiver* - The waiver already in use for pickleball activities will continue to be the only waiver required at Islands Pickleball Association (IPA) sponsored events held in Veterans Park.
 - *Activity Postings* - It was discussed that all future event and activity postings in print and social media will include the notation of "Children must be accompanied by an adult".
 - *Website* - The website will be updated with the above noted statement.
 - *Recreation Department Email Address* - It was decided to create a general email for recruitment and fundraising purposes and ILMRec@gmail.com was approved, if available. All members will be provided with the login and may monitor the communications to the inbox.
 - *Shaded Areas for Recreation Park* - The addition of shaded areas is not currently a priority, as the park has ample tree cover for sunny days and visitors should use their own judgment when utilizing the park on warmer days. Anne Jobin-Picard will circulate via email to attendees the information for the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District, a resource for cost-effective tree purchases should additional plantings be considered in the future.

- *Playground Maintenance* - Maintenance of the two playgrounds is the responsibility of the Town, and will be scheduled in the coming weeks. The expense has not been budgeted and will need to be anticipated going forward.
 - *ILMCO Partnership* - A discussion was held regarding the Department's participation in the Isle La Motte Community Organization's (ILMCO) Annual Yard Sale. Laura Miraldi and Barbara Callahan will review with ILMCO the Recreation Department's proposal of setting up a market in the park for people who may want to sell their items from a central location as well as the possibility of hosting a food stand for fundraising. It was confirmed that the Recreation Department would not need a table at Music in the Park, but if support is needed for the event that the Recreation Department would work to provide volunteers.
 - *Fundraising* - A discussion of t-shirts occurred at this point in the meeting, with Co-Chair Jobin-Picard stating that a small stock could be maintained for sales at all Recreation Department activities. There were a number of concerns over the maintenance of inventory and availability of sizes, citing historic experience with a similar venture and it was ultimately decided to pass on the shirt venture.
5. **AARP Flagship Grant Discussion:** Contact with vendors is in progress to ensure there is interest in bidding on the project should the grant be awarded in mid-May. A final scope of work is still in development, with the goal to re-confirm the scope of work with the Selectboard at the first regular meeting in May to ensure all approvals are in order to move forward immediately should the grant be obtained. A clean-up of the path behind the Town Office may be considered with the support of local organizations including the Boy Scouts of America and 4H.
6. **Other Business:** C.I.D.E.R. and AgeWell have committed to attending Third Thursday events and will be scheduled in the coming weeks. The next meeting will be held as scheduled on Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 AM via Zoom.
7. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM, motioned by Ruth Casey, seconded by Carmine Centrella, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 28 March 2024 -
Andrea Carbone

Anne Jobin-Picard

Ruth Casey