

Recreation Department Meeting
9 March 2024
10:00 AM
Isle La Motte Town Office and via Zoom

In Attendance: Anne Jobin-Picard, Ruth Casey (via Zoom), Vickie Buswell, Patti Creller, Laura Miraldi, Mike Simanskas (via Zoom), Kathy Simanskas (via Zoom), Carmine Centrella (via Zoom), Mary Brennan-Centrella (via Zoom), Barbara Callahan (via Zoom), Sylvia Jensen (via Zoom), Andrea Carbone

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Co-Chair Anne Jobin-Picard.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** It was noted that there would be a discussion regarding an activity and photo waiver.
3. **Activity Planning and Discussion:**
 - *Easter Egg Hunt - March 16* - Vickie Buswell and Patti Creller and their family will be preparing all the eggs in advance of the hunt and hiding them on the day of the hunt, as well as organizing and executing the event. All volunteers will meet at the park at 9:00 AM for setup on the day of the hunt, with the event to be called on the Thursday before; the rain date will be March 23. Advertising will be limited to the Island and Isle La Motte Front Porch Forum only, not advertised in *The Islander*.
 - *Activity Waiver* - At this point, the group reviewed a draft waiver that had been provided as a template from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). It was decided that one waiver to cover both adults and children would be prepared, but that other towns would be contacted to determine the scope of their waiver, whether it covers all activities or just athletic events. As well, the Selectboard will be asked for their feedback on the draft waiver who will then review the document with legal and insurance contacts. It was noted that signage may also be installed at the park to cover individuals who do not sign waivers; this will also be reviewed with the Selectboard. A discussion was held regarding the frequency of signing waivers, and it was determined that one waiver per season will be required, and a binder of the waivers will be kept at the Town Office.
 - *Spring/Summer Activities* - Anne Jobin-Picard reviewed her ongoing discussions with Goodsell Preserve, Island Arts, CIDER, and AgeWell. It was decided that CIDER and AgeWell would be invited to present at drop-in Fridays in the Park, an event which had been reviewed at the prior meeting. Laura Miraldi suggested developing a similar drop in toddler playground playtime on a regular schedule; as this would be a non-sanctioned and on-your-own event; a review by the Selectboard will be requested.
4. **Administrative**
 - *2024 Budget Review and Planned Expenses* - It was confirmed that there is currently \$6,656 in the department's fund with an additional \$3,000 due for calendar year 2024. In lieu of immediately making purchases, Laura Miraldi will prepare an equipment "wish list" and a number of volunteers will begin soliciting donations from various companies around Vermont. Ms. Miraldi suggested that the town would benefit from a Volunteer Coordinator who could manage recruitment of residents to staff initiatives and events; the Selectboard will be advised of this suggestion.
 - *Volunteer Recruitment* - Anne Jobin-Picard will collaborate with Carmine Centrella to initiate a volunteer drive in April via Front Porch Forum, which will also include a call out for talented volunteers to perform at Fridays in Park. As well, feedback on ideas and suggestions for future event and activity programming will be requested.
 - *Newsletter/Park Opening* - In advance of anticipated usage of the park on the day of the eclipse, the Port-a-Let and garbage/recycling bins will be arranged for delivery the first week of April. A newsletter highlighting seasonal events will be prepared and posted around town including the campgrounds, and it was determined that equipment will be provided on an honor system, rather than locked up and accessible by request. A partnership with the Isle La Motte Community Organization (ILMCO) may be coordinated on several events, including Green-Up Day 2024 which could include clean-up work at the recreation park.

- *Fundraising* - A consideration for purchasing Isle La Motte branded eclipse t-shirts to sell in advance of and during the event was met with mixed reactions. The group decided to pass on the initiative.

5. **AARP Flagship Grant Discussion:** The grant was submitted on March 6, proof of receipt was provided by AARP. Over the next two weeks, additional research and studies will be conducted to develop a scope of work as well as to solicit feedback from towns that currently have walking paths including Rouses Point, New York, and South Burlington. Suggestions for further enhancements in the future to the park included the addition of composite Adirondack Chairs in a variety of colors. A progress meeting was scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

6. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM, motioned by Anne-Jobin Picard.

Respectfully submitted on 14 March 2024 -
Andrea Carbone

Anne Jobin-Picard

Ruth Casey