**Weston Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**

**Final Minutes**

**Monday, march 8, 2021**

**7:30 P.M.**

**Via Dial In and Online Web Meeting**

*Official actions of the commission in these minutes are indicated by underlining.*

The Weston Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday March 8, 2021 via dial in / online web meeting. Commissioners present: Eric Albert, Ed Bello, Carl Bernstein, Kirby Brendsel, Mark Crowley, Elizabeth Pocsik, and Michael Schramm. Also present was: Dave Ungar (Director Parks & Recreation), Joe Parciasepe (Parks & Recreation Program Director), and Lynn Stevens (Parks & Recreation Aquatic Director). Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

1. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the regular monthly Commission meeting on February 8, 2021 by Commissioner Pocsik that was seconded by Commissioner Albert. Motion was approved. For: 7 / Against: 0.
2. Public Forum: None
3. Unfinished Business
   1. Other Unfinished Business: None
4. Reports of standing committees and resulting motions:
   1. Administrative Committee (Mr. Crowley and Dave Ungar - Director Parks & Recreation):
      1. 2021 – 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Discussion / Approval
         1. 2021 – 2022 Weston Parks & Recreation proposed Operating and Capital Budget goes to Board of Finance on March 10, 2021.
   2. Aquatics Committee (Ms. Pocsik):
      1. Discussion with Charlie Bailey, President of Weston Swimming
         1. Weston Swimming is a USA Swimming competitive non-profit parent-run swim team with approximately 100 swimmers, primarily from Weston, ranging in age from 8 to 18. It has a year-round program, and has a coaching staff of five (two full-time coaches and three part-time coaches).
         2. Since the start of COVID in 2020, it has followed the related guidelines required by USA Swimming.
         3. The Weston pool closed in early 2020 due to the onset of COVID, but opened in June with strict protocols in place, which were met by Weston Swimming. The open status changed though, and there was a gap when the school opened until the end of October, based on guidance provided by the School Superintendent.
         4. Weston Swimming is concerned they will loose members if they are locked out of the school and pool – i.e., if the pool is closed due to the school being closed based on COVID (or other reasons, such as snow), swimmers will find another pool in which to swim (and ostensibly other programs to join) such as Westport or Stamford where the controls are not in place to the same level as Weston.
         5. Weston Swimming is only asking to be allowed into the facility when the situation is safe (i.e., not closed due to COVID or liability reasons such as having to clean snow off walkways).
         6. To address this, Weston Swimming would like to:
            1. Establish an agreement with joint rules in place between the WPRC, Weston Swimming, and the Weston School District on when Weston Swimming should and should not be allowed into the pool.
            2. Discuss with the new School Superintendent.
         7. Weston Swim Club is in contact with the Board of Education, and Weston Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator on this issue.
         8. Discussion led to:
            1. Moves towards documenting situation and proposal further in a protocol.
            2. Dave Ungar (Director Parks & Recreation) to start checking with Facilities Sub-Committee of the Board of Education or other applicable sub-groups (potentially during their April or May meetings) for options to review.
            3. Working to meet with the new School Superintendent once they are on board, around the issues, drafted “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU), responsibilities, etc…, so that everyone can be on the same page from the beginning.
   3. Fields Committee (Mr. Bernstein & Mr. Schramm): None
   4. Programs Committee (Mr. Albert and Joe Parciasepe (Parks & Recreation Program Director))
      1. Program Supervisor Programming Report – Spring & Summer Proposal
         1. WPRC is moving forward with Spring programming.
         2. Registration will start on Thursday, March 11.
         3. 12 programs are ready to go, and programming will begin at the end of March.
         4. Generally, programming will be similar / a repeat of Fall programs, with some new additions.
         5. Notably, Mountain Biking will return, which has been one of the largest growing programs for the past three years.
         6. Questions still remains around facility utilization for programs this Summer – what facilities and rooms are available for access, and if they are accessible, what size participants are allowed.
         7. The intent of WPRC is to hold Camp this Summer, and not just programs, but it is still indeterminate how exactly this will look.
         8. Endeavoring to be prepared as soon as possible, and working on final coordinations at this point.
         9. Additional desire exists to make certain we engage with our new Weston families on these opportunities.
   5. Parks Committee (Mr. Bernstein): None
5. New Business: None
6. Correspondence: None
7. Announcements, remarks for the good of the order: None
8. Setting of continuation date if necessary and adjournment
   1. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Crowley and and seconded by Commissioner Bello. Motion was approved. For: 7 / Against: 0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby Brendsel,

Commissioner and Secretary, Weston Parks and Recreation Committee