**MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Regular Monthly Meeting, August 1, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

**Gymkhana Building, King Phillip St, Raynham, MA**

**In attendance:** Commissioner Chris Shaw, Commissioner Riley Menconi, Director Tim McRae, and Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary Samantha Sturtevant.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m. Chris entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the July 11th meeting. Riley made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11th meeting. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Chris called for old business.

**Old Business (4):**

1. *Raynham Giants/Jay Messler*

Tim said that he has been going back and forth with jay with the Raynham giants. They would like to proceed with the gates on the football field at their expense. They are going to go forward with that. Tim sent out an email in regards to how much the department is able to contribute which came to about $9,400 pending the approval of the commission.

Chris and riley both approved the amount.

Tim said that he will talk to Jay, get some bills from him, and they will get that going. He has to also get a building permit for the bleachers as well as get an engineering stamp which he is currently working on.

1. *Shared Walking Path*

Tim was supposed to have a shared walking path last week however, the meeting was cancelled. Tim is waiting on the rescheduled date since it was changed twice last week to go over that walking path from South Main Street, up to Thrasher Street, going into Borden Colony. Tim said that he will keep the commission updated.

1. *Gymkhana Building*

The Gymkhana Building meeting was supposed to be last week but was cancelled as well. It has been moved to tomorrow at 4:10p.m.

Chris said that he doesn’t think he will be able to make it.

Tim said that he will be in attendance and keep the commission updated. Nothing has changed in there, there’s just some very stale air because nobody’s been in there. Once he attends that meeting he will update the commission and they’ll go from there.

1. *Summer Playground Program Update*

The summer program is in week six. There is two and a half weeks to go. Its been a fun, busy, and fast summer. The staff is hanging in there. Everybody is getting a little tired, that always happens this time of the year, but everybody’s working hard. All of the credit goes to Heather, Bethany, and Sammi. Tim said that he appreciates everything that everybody’s doing. They are exited to go to Water Wizz this week. It’s much better this week than it was last week. It was so hot last week that it got to the point where they actually cut camp short early on Friday because they just couldn’t keep the kids cool which was a tough day but overall it has been a good summer.

The chairman called for new business.

**New Business (2):**

1. *Pacheco Basketball Court Sign*

Tim got a call from Joe. He noticed that the Pacheco basketball court sign is worn down. Tim said that he’s going to look into a few sign companies to see what it’s going to take to refurbish that sign. It’s more-so the picture on the front that’s peeling off so he is going to get a few companies to give an estimate of what its going to cost to have that redone.

1. *Fall Field Use Permit Applications (5)*

*Bridgewater-Raynham Special Olympics*

Looking for their fall annual permit beginning on September 10th on Sunday afternoons from 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m. on the R.M.S. football field. Last year, they were approved for no fee.

Riley made a motion to accept the Bridgewater-Raynham Special Olympics fall field-use permit for the R.M.S. football field on Sundays from September 10, 2023 – November 12, 2023 from 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Raynham Youth Soccer*

Looking for their annual fall permit using the Burke Field, Mary-Lou Arruda Field, and Multipurpose Field. The only conflict that they requested was for Sunday mornings. They would like to use it Monday - Sunday for no fee and they are going to rest Griffiths field.

Riley made a motion to accept the Raynham Youth Soccer field use permit for the Burke Field, Mary-Lou Arruda Field, and Multipurpose Field from September 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023, Monday – Friday 3:00p.m. – 9:00p.m., Saturdays from 7:00a.m. – 8:00p.m., and Sundays for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*R.Y.B.S.A.*

Looking at doing their annual Fall-Ball for both softball and baseball on weekends starting September 1st in the afternoons at the Merrill Complex on fields #1-7. They will not play on days that the Raynham Giants are home to avoid how busy the parking lot can get. They were approved last year with no fee.

Riley made a motion to accept the R.Y.B.S.A. fall field-use permit for weekends starting September 1st through November 1st in the afternoons at the Merrill Complex on fields #1-7 for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Jessica Burns*

Looking to start a yoga class in town. Tim went back and forth with her on some dates due to some conflicts, especially, once the sun starts to go down a little earlier in October. Its looking like it will be Saturdays at 11:00a.m. out at the gazebo. She would like to charge $10 a class. Her goal is that for every person, out of that $10, she would keep $7, and donate $3 to the Park and Recreation Department.

Riley asked if she would have a fee.

Tim said that it’s up for discussion with the commission.

Riley asked if they typically charge people that charge their clientele vs. someone that is hosting a community service event.

Tim said that it is to the commission’s discursion.

Sammi asked if she is a Raynham resident.

Tim said yes.

Riley made a motion to table the permit for further discussion. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Chris asked if she has insurance.

Tim said that they did discuss that. It is something that she still has to get. She is an instructor but if something were to happen on town property, that’s something she would need.

Chris said that if it was a legitimate business, it would be different. The Department could hire her to provide yoga classes but she’d have to be an independent contractor.

Tim said that essentially, they would take over the registration fee and then she would bill the department for the fee.

Chris said they could approve the application depending on insurance. She’s not doing it as a business, she’s doing it for the community. Chris said that he loves the idea but it’s the technicalities that need to be squared away.

Riley asked if they hired her, if they would pay her.

Tim answered that they would set it up in the department system and collect revenue upon sign-ups. She would then keep track of how many people are in attendance and they would pay her depending on how many people are in the class.

Chris asked if they had ever offered yoga recently because they used to do it over at Merrill.

Tim said that they did used to have yoga over at Merrill and then COVID hit to which space got really restricted really fast. She used to host during the school year.

Chris said that it was very well attended.

Tim agreed. She is looking to host somewhere outside which will be nice to attract other people around.

Chris said that it would be dependent on the weather too unless they go under the gazebo.

Tim said that they discussed different dates such as Tuesday nights at 6:00p.m. or Sunday nights at 5:00p.m. but they ran into conflicts with Raynham Community Day, the horse shows, and then at 6:00p.m. on a Tuesday, its pitch black and they wouldn’t be able to see a thing.

Riley made a motion to approve Jessica Burns field-use permit pending insurance as stated for a $10 fee, $7 which will go to the host, and the remaining $3 as a donation to the Park and Recreation Department. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Christina Berardi*

The Massachusetts Softball Drifters are looking to extend their two-season permit that is ending in August into the fall at Reed Field on Monday – Thursday nights from 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m. and Saturdays 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. for softball practice ending November 1st. for the two seasons, they have been previously charged for $1200 so for the one season it would come to $600 for the fall if approved.

Riley made a motion to accept the Massachusetts Softball Drifters fall field use permit for the extension of their season on Monday – Thursday nights from 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m. and Saturdays 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. for softball practice ending November 1st for a fee of $600. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Riley Menconi:** Pleased to see how many people are happy with the summer program. He would like to continue to have the Petrucci family in our prayers. They lost their son tragically. He was very active in Raynham Youth Sports especially Raynham Giants. He would like the community to keep them in their prayers during this difficult time.

**Chris Shaw:** Chris went by the ball fields on Saturday. There was a ton of people down there. Chris asked if they did a softball league.

Tim said that they named the softball after Paul Monte and Jared Monte for baseball. They had 9 for softball and 15 teams for baseball.

Chris said that he has never seen that many people down there.

Tim said that even with the weather on Saturday night, they only had one game postponed.

Chris said that it’s also nice to see the gazebo packed again.

Tim agreed and said that they had a lot of good concerts this year.

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Sammi handed out copies of the school year schedule for the commission. She also updates the commission on the new system called Vadar. They used to use a system called Zobrio. Bills will soon be entered in a similar fashion.

Tim said that they will sign, scan in, and bring the signed copy down on Monday. There are still a lot of question marks with that part of the system.

**Tim reported the following:**

-Tim said the Mass Rough Riders reached out to Tim to do a special horse show on Labor Day. Tim said that it was fine and there are no conflicts. They would like to make it a dedication to turn it into cancer research in honor of john ford who passed away this year. they asked for permission to bring food trucks which would be a change to their permit. Tim let them know that the commission would have to approve it and if approved, then they would have to go to the Health Department for permission to bring the food trucks in for proper licensing. Tim asked the commission if they had any issues with them bringing food trucks in.

Chris and Riley both agreed that they do not have any issues with it.

Tim said that he will let them know.

-Tim met with Mark, the Athletic Director, the football coach last week for over at South School. They are excited to use the space and planning everything out. They’re going to try to do two fifty-yard football fields side-by-side. They have approximately 80 kids in their program freshman through varsity. He reminded them that there is a lack of parking so Tim did encourage bussing. some of the older kids want to drive and Tim said if that’s the case then it would be best to carpool because there’s only so much parking in the parking lot and they cannot park on the road. Tim was very clear with them to be respectful of the neighborhood, to pick-up their trash, and to watch the foul language, etc., and they were very receptive. They are going to start doubles on August 18th so they’re excited. Tim will be meeting with Mark and Norm next week and they’ll do a tour of the cross-country course so they’ll be getting ready for that. It’s going to be nice to see cross-country back there as well so that’ll be good.

Chris said that it is a perfect cross-country course that the town has.

Tim said that it’s great.

-Tim spoke with Tony Arruda. He’s out there cutting as they speak.

Chris asked how he is doing.

Tim said that he sounded pretty good, he said that he’s feeling relatively okay, and he’s looking forward to getting out there and cutting. He’s out there right now, he brought out the tractor today and he started tonight.

Chris mentioned that his mother had passed away.

Tim said that he was not aware of that. Tim also mentioned to Riley that once or twice a year they have to have the back field cut and hayed so that it doesn’t turn into wetlands.

-To prepare for the school year, the playground mulch will be delivered on the weekend of the 14th. The Highway Department will be spreading it between Merrill and LaLiberte. Whatever they have extra of, they may bring some over to the Monte playground as well to freshen that up. They bring in the playground mulch because it is required by E.E.C. If they have the wrong mulch in there, they can get sited.

Chris asked if the requirement is to have it at eight inches.

Tim said yes.

There is about one hundred and thirty yards of mulch between the two schools.

Riley said that they always do a wonderful job.

Tim agreed. It’s a one-time a year expense that they do towards the end of the summer so that it’s nice and fresh for the start of the school year. Tim concluded his report.

Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary