MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

**Regular Monthly Meeting, January 5, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

# Raynham Senior Center, 2215 King Phillip St, Raynham, MA

**In attendance:** Chairman Jim Brow, Commissioner Chris Shaw, Commissioner Josh Daisy, Director Tim McRae, and Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary Samantha Sturtevant.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Jim entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December 1st, 2020 meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Jim called for a follow up on old business items.

Tim proceeded to announce updates.

**Old Business (2):**

1. *Santa’s Calling*

Tim announced that we held the event on Tuesday December 8th and Wednesday December 9th. Our sign-up lists were full for each night and we reached out to 72 families total. Thanks to our volunteers it was very successful.

1. *Winter Programing*

With limited inside space, we are going to be running Drama Kids and “Mad Science” as well as Skiing at Blue Hills for this winter session. We are also going to try to run a half-day program out of the Lions Club during February vacation depending on where we are with COVID regulations and our available capacity. We would like to try and run as many programs as we can because things have been quiet with everything going on.

Tim concluded old business.

Jim called for new business.

**New Business Items (2):**

1. *Field Facility Use Application*

Tim announced that we received two Field Facility Applications. The first one from RYBSA. They are looking for two seasons for the spring and the summer for the Merrill Fields, Burke and McKenney Field from April 1st until August 15th all day every day. In the past, we have never charged a fee. Jim asked if this is their normal permit, Tim confirmed this is their normal yearly permit. This does not include however, the Cal Ripken and Regional Tournament which they are most likely hosting in July this year.

Chris made a motion to approve out RYBSA’s Summer Permit excluding any fees pending COVID state town regulation guidelines. Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Tim continued with the second permit from Raynham Flag Football. They are looking for a permit as well for Sundays starting on May 2nd through June 13th from 11:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. on those Sundays. One of the fields at Borden we have always had plenty of room to fit them in with spring soccer and lacrosse as well. No fee has been charged in the past.

Chris made a motion to accept Flag Football Permit with no fee pending guidelines COVID. Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Monti Meeting*

In regards to the Monti meeting, Tim did hear back from some members for possible dates for the Zoom meeting they gave him Thursday January 21st and Thursday January 28th. Jim and Chris said both work for them. Tim responded by saying he will reach out to Paul and see which one works better for him and we will proceed from there.

Tim concluded new business items.

**Commissioners’ Reported the following:**

**Josh:** Has nothing to report at this time.

**Chris:** Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Jim:** Nothing to report.

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Shared that we are close to our goal of two hundred followers on the Park and Recreation Department Facebook Page moving up from where we left off at four. We hope to exceed two hundred by the end of January and continue to spread the word. We’ve been getting more people finding our page every day which is exciting. Concluded by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

**Tim announced the following:**

-He spoke to Mike King in regards to the deed for the Forge River Parkway Basketball Court. The town was able to locate the Turner Brothers who signed the deed fifteen years ago but was never officially took ownership. The town lawyer and the Turner Brother’s Lawyer are working on getting the deed so it can get transferred over to Raynham and then we can meet with that neighborhood and determine what they would like to do with that basketball court.

-Tim announced that he spoke to Mike Heylin the other day and expressed concern about the lack of progress on the South School. They spoke the middle of last year about us taking over the bottom floor so we can get some other activities going such as: Mommy and Me classes, meetings at night, or Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts. Tim proceeded to say that he spoke to the Town Administrator today and he is currently working on it but we are working harder to get the process in motion. Right now, we cannot be in there due to the issues with the mold and the electrical wiring.

Chris asked if it was due to not getting the funding released to get it done. Tim responded that they just haven’t done anything so they will have to start over. They did the scope of the work today and it will have to put it to bid because it’s going to be over a $10,000 job so they will need three written bids in order to complete the job. Hopefully we will get it sooner rather than later and if things go by late spring early summer we’ll have something going but we will find out at that point.

-Heather and Sarah took the Safe Serve Class and examination and we are now certified for all of our activities for daycare and summer programming. They said it was a very difficult course but they did pass.

-School is back to its normal hybrid schedule currently, but Tim said he is in contact with Derek Swenson because it is going on a week to week basis in case anything changes whether or not they continue on this track or go remote again.  
-As of January 1st, 2021 minimum wage has increased another .75 cents. The staff who were earning $12.75 will now be earning $13.50 and this will continue again next year increasing another .75 cents as well as 2023 but will cap at $15.00 at that point.

-Just a reminder that we are accepting Field Permits for this year, it’s going to be tight because we are unsure of what the COVID regulations are going to be so it’s best to get them in as early as possible.

-The Community Garden Applications will be accepted in the beginning of March.

-Tim concluded by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Jim asked for any final thoughts.

Chris said the only final thought would be the dog park.

Tim responded that we are just waiting for meeting with the neighborhood it’s just a matter of figuring out when we can meet. Tim said he went to look at the location again a couple of weeks back. If the dog park were to go to that location the town would place it set behind the field and instead of to the right of it. The right of it would cause the cost to go up for the fill as well. The back would be the area, the entrance would be at the Reed field side to which there is plenty of parking, and we should be good to go if that’s the place that the town would like it.

Chris asked if Mrs. Dermody has called back or has she been waiting for us?

Tim said that he has been in contact with her over the past couple of months and we are working on organizing a meeting of this size so that we can include the entire neighborhood to which would be easier to do in person than on Zoom with the amount of people that would be involved though we could put it on Zoom, it would just be easier in person with the presentation. Tim further explained that this is one of the last stands for the dog park in the area unless we do what Josh mentioned and move the Tennis Courts to Forge River.

Tim wished everyone a Happy New year and concluded his staff reports.

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary