MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

**Regular Monthly Meeting, November 2, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

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

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

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

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5th meeting. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Chris asked how the Annual Town Meeting went.
Tim said that everything went well. No problems, they got the extra funds difference that they need for Griffiths fence. Tim said that they were out about 8:30p.m. – 8:45p.m.

Chris asked if it was well attended.

Tim said that it was very quiet. Approximately sixty people attended.

Chris asked if it was in the gym again and if masks were required.

Tim said they were in the auditorium and masks were optional.

Chris asked for confirmation that they cannot play basketball.

Tim said no they are very frustrated. He will be talking to Derek after the holidays to discuss options to see if they can get a shorter season going.

Chris said that’s ridiculous. They can play high school basketball but not Raynham Park and Rec.

Tim said that they are not allowing outside groups in the school.

Chris said that they are not outside groups, they are Raynham children that go to that school.

Tim said that he agrees.

Jim said that it’s a good thing that college football, professional football, and baseball are all requiring masks.

Chris said they are just following guidelines.

Tim said that it is very frustrating. There are a lot of kids that want to play.

Chris said that will be two years with no youth basketball.

Tim said that when the program does come back then they are basically going to have to rebuild it from the ground up.

Chris said that they aren’t going to know how to dribble etc.

Tim said that they would have lost an entire age group of kids not playing.

Chris said it’s frustrating.

Chris called for old business.

**Old Business (1):**

1. *Griffith’s Field Fence*

Tim said that the new Griffith’s Field fence is going to be installed this month. The Highway Department will be taking down the old fence and will be putting up the new one. They need to figure out the date. The other one was a safety hazard so it will be a step in the right direction.

Chris moved on to new business.

**New Business Items (3):**

1. *Field Permit Applications*

Tim added one item to new business being that a field permit had just came in. Football is asking for another outfield for practice. They are looking for field 5 for a post season football practice under the lights. I they win on Saturday then they would like to use it next week as well. Playoffs are being hosted by Raynham next Saturday as well.

Jim asked if they are in the playoffs.

Tim said yes.

Chris asked if Tim has checked out the softball field.

Tim said that he has, they’ve only done a couple of practices up there, and they’ve switched back to the Bettencourt Field.

Chris asked what age group.

Tim said the oldest ones.

Chris said that’s frustrating after all of the years they’ve spent getting light sets and early practices to avoid ruining the field.

Jim made a motion to approve the Raynham Giants Youth Football to use Merrill Baseball Field #5 on Tuesday November 2nd – Friday November 12th from 4:30p.m. – 7:00p.m. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Christmas Events*

Tim announced that they are able to do their Christmas events this year. They will be doing the Christmas Tree Lighting event on Saturday D3ecember 4th from 3:00p.m. – 4:30p.m. They are also going to be bringing back Santa’s Calling this year after last years successful event. Santa will be calling kids around Raynham.

1. *McKenney Field Dugouts/Sheds*

Tim said that they have been working on the McKenny field dugouts and sheds. They’ve gotten worn out throughout the years. They had to repaint it and there’s been an expansion on the shed which is also getting painted this week. It will be nice to have that look good for the spring.

Chris called for commissioner reports.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Jim:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Josh:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Chris:** Chris confirmed the annual commission dinner on Tuesday December 7th.

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Mentioned that picture day will most likely be in December at the Commission dinner. It’s a lot easier to get everyone together.

**Tim reported the following:**

-They are going to start renovating the Gymkhana building roof. Tim spoke to Bob Iafrate. They are going to get a storage container. Tim has already reached out to the Mass Rough Rider Association so they can store their stuff in the storage unit. He spoke to Bob about the Christmas Tree Lighting on December 4th. He just asked for a reminder once it gets closer so they can clean it up and so that no one is around that construction area. They may get a tent in case it rains as well.

-Tim continued with some updates from the recent storm. The Park and Rec sign has broken again. Norm is going to try to fix it again though, it is ripped at the bottom. If it is not reparable they’ll look into a new one in the spring.

Chris said something more durable.

-The wind picked up and dropped the Bettencourt Fence. The posts stayed in the ground. Some football parents were able to get together and fix it.

-The concession stand also took some damage. The trim and gutters on the front and backside were dislodged. Taunton siding will be coming out tomorrow to fix it and it will be ready for the game on Saturday.

Jim asked if it was just the ties that broke.

Tim clarified that it lifted out of place.

Chris asked if the concrete came out.

Tim said no luckily it was just the rail that came out.

-An issue at Bettencourt is that there are three lights out and they have playoffs this week. Individual lights, not banks. Tim spoke to T.M.L.P. a week before the storm hit. They were understandably busy and haven’t been able to get there yet because of the storm. Tim spoke to Jeremy, as of right now the lights are not fixed. They can still play but they will be playing with about three lights out there.

Chris asked how they didn’t know the lights were out.

Tim said that they found out the week before the storm. They were busy at the time and then the storm hit and they didn’t have a chance to get there.

-There is another Eagle Scout Project being done. Jonathon Benner is going to redo the older bocce court and get that looking similar to the one that they put in a couple of years ago. It will get done the weekend before Thanksgiving.

-Tim said that they hosted their first annual Trunk-Or-Treat last Thursday night. They actually moved it up a day because of conflicts with the soccer schedule. There were approximately three hundred and fifty to four hundred kids. The police, fire, and animal control officers were there. A lot of staff did their trunks. Parents and kids were asked to vote on their way out and the trunk that was the Christmas Tree Theme won the vote. All of the credit goes to Heather, Emma, and Sammi. It was a great night.

Chris asked where it was held.

Tim said at the soccer fields in the parking lot and they turned the Arruda and Burke lights on. It was a good time.

-Pat Riley came to speak to Tim last night. It appears that the R.A.V.E. Organization is going to be taking over Community Day in Raynham. They would like Park and Rec to be involved with that and they invited Tim to the meeting in December. They’d also like Park and Rec to be involved in the Memorial Day Parade if they can get that going next year. Tim said he will keep them updated.

-There are some openings for the after-school portion of the before and after care. If anyone is interested they can reach out to Emma in the office and they’ll be good to go.

-Lastly, next Wednesday they are having a zoom program called “Playful Engineers” that was actually set up about a week after COVID originally hit. It’s being sponsored by the Historical Society in Raynham. There isn’t enough space for something this big so he’s going to do a zoom with all of the kids that would like to sign-up for it.

-Tim wished everyone a happy Veteran’s Day and thanked Jim and Chris for their service.

-Tim concluded by wishing everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary