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

**Regular Monthly Meeting, September 1, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting held at: Raynham Senior Center, 2215 King Philip St., Raynham, MA**

In attendance: Chairman Jim Brow, Commissioner Josh Daisy, Commissioner Chris Shaw,

Director Tim McRae, and Program Coordinator as Recording Secretary Heather Nix

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Chris made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2020 Commission meeting, Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Old Business:

Tim reported that the first round of interviews for the Administrative Assistant position is to begin this week, 4 interviews have been scheduled for Wednesday and 3 interviews have been scheduled for Thursday. After preliminary interviews Tim will arrange a second round of interviews with the Commission and will schedule those the following week.

In regards to the Before and Afterschool care the program has been provisionally approved to reopen last week by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). All licensed providers were required to submit safety plans to the department in regards to the pandemic Covid 19 to seek approval to reopen. Tim explained that due to the school districts decision to open with using the hybrid approach and dividing children into Cohorts A and B. The program will only be allowed to provide care for the children that come to school on their scheduled cohort days. There will be no care on Wednesdays, the school will be using that day as a cleaning day.

In addition, desks that were ordered for the Before and After School Program have been delayed and will be received either Thursday, September 3, 2020 or next Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Tim also reported that since the last meeting August 4, 2020, the department has received a formal complaint and warning by the state for the Pacheco Basketball Courts, due to the amount of people using them at one time and the public not adhering to the rules and regulations put in place through the state. In response the department has gone back to locking the gate. They will be unlocked each morning and will be closed at the end of day, until it calms down.

New Business:

The following field use/permits were reviewed and acted on:

1. Makenzie Gomes submitted a permit for the use of Johnson Pond for October 31, 2020 for a Wedding Ceremony on Halloween day, with approximately 20 guests, with the possibility of using King Philip St. Gazebo if it rains. The commissioners did raise concern with parking at the pond, and wanted to make sure that the applicant knew that they could not close the area to the public. Tim assured the commission that she was informed and also reported in the past there was no fee for previous weddings. Chris motioned to approve the permit with no fee, Josh seconded the motion and all were in favor.
2. Dominic Monterio submitted a permit for the use of the Borden Colony Multi-Purpose Field for the purpose of a Peaceful Demonstration in honor of Victims of Police Violence and Systemic Racism for Saturday, September 19, 2020, but is willing to change the date if needed. He has previously been in touch with the Selectmen’s Office and a Safety Plan has been submitted to the Fire and Police departments. Tim did report that there was nothing scheduled for that day and Raynham Youth Soccer would be starting the following weekend of September 26, 2020. With no approximations on how many people are expected, and lots of questions raised. With the uncertainty of how many and who would be in attendance Chris stated in order to make a motion it would be based on the contingency of using the gazebo instead if the Multi-Purpose Field. Jim mentioned he was wondering if we can get some more information., and based on the contingencies along with some of our questions being answered Chris made a motion to approve Mr. Monteiros permit with changing the location from the Multi-Purpose to the Gazebo field on September 19th. The approval is also contingent on the Police and Fire Safety Plans, and incorporating Covid 19 Safety Precautions of wearing masks and socially distancing, with no fee. There will also be no fee charged unless it is learned that the population is over 50% of non-Raynham residents, if the population higher than that of the residents the minimum of $120 will be charged. In addition the applicant is also responsible for clean-up. Josh seconded the motion and all approved.
3. Mary Gaudette submitted a permit requesting the use of the Borden Colony Tennis Courts or Burke Soccer Field for an exercise class. Tim informed the commission that earlier in the day Mary and a group of individuals tried to run a class today with a volunteer teacher and 10 participants (not all participants are Raynham residents but they are willing to keep it to only Raynham Residents). Due to the class not being sponsored by a town run entity he informed the commission that they must provide their own liability insurance in order to run such a program. They changed the dynamic of just exercising when they brought in the teacher. Chris made comment that he did not find the Tennis Courts an appropriate place for the class, especially if a resident wanted to use the courts to play tennis during a time that the class was happening. Other possible locations for the class were brainstormed such as the track at the Raynham Middle School the Borden Colony Softball Field, South School Field, and parking lot of the Senior Center (the Senior Center is not comfortable with that at this time being closed to the public). The commission also made mention that if they are going to pull a permit, insurance is required. In addition, Tim mentioned a possibility of being able to run the program would be to make it a town program, that we would take registration for, and put it under our umbrella. After weighing out other possible locations and options the commission took no action on the permit.

Commisioners reported on the following:

Josh made mention that all the fields look great despite the weather. Jim stated that the Raynham State Forrest is in dire need of help and needs some tlc. Tim responded that its on the list for Norm and the guys but they are in need of additional help since they just lost one of their seasonal guys in order to get some of these projects done. Chris then explained that he would still like to meet with the Superintendent of Highway to rack his brain in regards to the staffing situation, discuss facility concerns that we govern and how he plans to staff for the future, along with the department’s need for a non-floater position.

Tim reported on the following:

Fertilizing has begun early to get ready for the school year.

The tree was taken down at the Park and Recreation Office, due to the damage it was causing to vehicles.

There is no tackle football this year. In speaking with Jeremy Melusky There are other options out there but with all the rules and regulations out there he mentioned it’s very difficult to socially distance and non-contact is going to be difficult.

Soccer is also going to have some serious issues coming this fall it is a much different game. All players must wear masks. Rules have changed so there will be no throw ins, slide tackles, etc. They have also changed the field to 7 on 7, which we have already lined and there is one on each of the four fields which will spread everyone out.

Heather will also offer some nice programs at the Lion’s Club till we can get into the South School.

In addition, our basketball league will most likely not be happening this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36