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

**Regular Monthly Meeting, September 6, 2022 6:00 p.m.**

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

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

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:08p.m. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed. Jim tabled the approval of the August 2nd meeting until next meeting.

Jim called for old business.

**Old Business (2):**

1. *McKenney Field*

Tim met with a few companies in regards to fixing the infield. There is a major dip as the ball comes up that is turning into a safety issue. He is looking into raising the infield and fixing the pitchers mound.

Jim agreed that the pitcher’s mound is a mess.

Tim said that he researched it and it looks like it hasn’t been fixed in at least seven or eight years. Tim also started meeting with fence companies about what the cost would be to replace the fence. Once he gets the number, he can bring it to capitol, and hopefully they will get it on the warrant this year to get that fence replaced. He spoke to the McKenney family in regards to getting the fence replaced and they are in total support of getting it back to where it should be.

Chris asked if there is irrigation out there.

Tim said that there is none in the outfield. There’s some older in the infield but the trunk line is so old that they would have to possibly look at getting a new trunk line in there in order to get that fixed. If they decide to go in that direction, would they want to bring out a third well for Borden Colony. There is currently two out there but they may need a third in order to irrigate that whole field which could definitely use it. This project would be another capitol planning project that could be down the line from McKenney Field.

1. *Raynham State Forrest*

Tim reached out to them a few times now, and he’s not getting anywhere. He’s going to keep trying to get them to et out there. The town doesn’t have the guys or the equipment to do it.

Jim asked if they worry about liability because some of that stuff is dangerous.

Tim agreed. He said that there are some hanging.

Chris said that it’s a big tree and they’re definitely going to need a machine if they’re going to get that.

Tim agreed and said they will also need a chipper etc.

Chris asked how they could get in there.

Jim explained that they started the main trail by the end with the woodchips.

Tim said that he goes out there every couple of weeks to take a walk around and he sees that nothing has been changed since they did that initial work late May, early June.

Jim called for new business.

**New Business (2):**

1. *Before and After School Care Update*

Tim said that the program starts up tomorrow. He hopes that everybody does well. They are doing pretty good on staff. Still working on filling in a few positions. Mornings are completely full. Every since COVID, it shifted. Mornings, they always had room and now they do not, there is a waitlist a mile long. If anybody wants care in the afternoon, there is room, especially at the LaLiberte site. Emma has been doing a wonderful job getting it ready. It all starts up tomorrow at 7:00a.m.

1. *Fall Field Use Permit Applications (6)*

Merrill ECPO

Looking to do an outdoor family concert for Friday September 30, 2022 from 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. at the gazebo. There are no conflicts. If soccer is running games that night, then they can use the Burke and Arruda fields for the lights. There has been no fee for this permit in the past. Jim made a motion to approve the Merrill ECPO field use permit for Friday September 30,2022 from 4:00p.m.-7:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Merrill ECPO

Looking to host a fall festival on Saturday October 15, 2022 from 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. using the Merrill school parking lot, the playground, and Tim said that he is pointing them towards the Burke outfield with any events that they want to do. He is trying to keep them off of the baseball fields, especially field four. He had to consider fall baseball and speak to football to make sure that they don’t have anything going on. Football agreed to hold off on anything they have that day until 3:00p.m. the Giants are away that weekend but the B team sometimes does games at home. Tim said because of that, they do have an opening and he already let the Merrill ECPO know that if this does get approved, then they have to be out of there by 1:00p.m. Jim made a motion to approve the Merrill ECPO field use permit for Saturday October 15th, 2022 from 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

R.Y.B.S.A.

R.Y.B.S.A. is doing their fall-ball, mainly focusing on softball this year mainly for Saturdays and Sundays. They have 8:00a.m. – 6:00p.m. for times but they’re not going to conflict when the Giants have their games on Sundays. In the past, there has been no fee for them. Jim made a motion to approve the R.Y.B.S.A. field use permit from September 10, 2022 – October 30,2022 on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00a.m. – 6:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Rock Hard Racing

The first event is set for Wednesday October 12, 2022. They start setting up on Columbus Day and the following day to get their stuff together. Tim usually helps set up to get everything going. They will have to discuss how far they need to stay away from the Gymkhana with everything getting set up. They know that they have to provide their own porta-potties. A letter will also have to be sent to the Selectmen to recommend approval for a liquor license. Last year, for the first event, there was a charge of $420 for twelve hours.

Jim asked if they are looking for the liquor license for both events.

Tim said yes.

Jim made a motion to approve the Rock Hard Racing field use permit for Wednesday October, 12, 2022 for a fee of $420 with the recommendation to the selectmen’s office for further approval. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Rock Hard Racing

Looking for Saturday November 19, 2022. Tim spoke to soccer and their last game is on Saturday November 12, 2022 so there are no conflicts. Last year, they charged $280 for eight hours. Jim made a motion to approve the Rock Hard Racing field use permit for Saturday November 19, 2022 for a fee of $280 with the recommendation to the selectmen’s office for further approval. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Men’s Christian Softball League

They are looking to do a fundraiser on Monday September 12, 2022 from 6:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. Unfortunately, one of their players was badly injured on a different field. They would like to do a fundraiser to help raise money for this gentleman and some of his medical expenses. Jim made a motion to accept the Men’s Christian Softball League field use permit for Monday September 12, 2022 from 6:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Chris Shaw:** Chris asked if there is a sinkhole near the tennis court causing an issue with the fence near the gate.

Tim said it’s been coming up after years of wearing away. It would be another capitol project once they get to that point. Tennis hasn’t been as popular here as it used to be. Pickleball has been getting more common over the years. Tim said that he was thinking about doing one side as a tennis court and turning the other side as two pickleball courts with a little fence in between.

Jim agreed.

Chris said maybe even four pickleball courts and two tennis courts. Without going outside of that footprint, maybe there could be a few more courts within that space if they are placed correctly.

Tim agreed. He said that Mr. Noblin has shared some ideas as well for that court. They will have to work on that through capitol planning in the near future.

Chris added that the Gymkhana building looks great from the inside and the outside.

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

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** The DCR Park Pass has been getting used more this year which is nice to see. It’s been more popular during the summer season. Hopefully, it continues to get used throughout the upcoming seasons. Lastly, Emma has been doing a great job with the school program.

**Tim reported the following:**

-Tim would like to recognize Mr. Monte who passed away recently. Many people have worked with him many times. He’s done a lot of great work for the community. It was great working with him and he will be solely missed.

-Tim swung by town hall and got a chance to meet the new Town Administrator, Greg Barnes. Tim said that he’ll be meeting with him once he gets acclimated with everything, just to go over everything that the Park and Recreation Department is involved with and handles in town. He mentioned briefly that he would like to come to a Commission Meeting to introduce himself to the Commissioners so Tim will get that on the calendar and they’ll go from there.

-Tim ordered the Merrill replacement slide after the last Commission Meeting. He’s waiting to hear from the school to see how they’re going to work with the department on this one. It’s going to take at least six weeks to arrive and just to get an update. It’s a slow process trying to get all of the materials.

-Tim said that they tagged the new Christmas tree. The Highway Department will be taking down the old tree. The new tree is currently about eight feet high but will grow to about eighteen to twenty feet high so it will be full. They’ll get some lights on there and make it look great.

Chris asked if it’s a balsam.

Tim said yes. The Christmas Tree lighting will be on Saturday December 3rd. It’s always that second Saturday after Thanksgiving.

-The annual Trunk-Or-Treat will be on Thursday October 27th. Last year, about three-hundred and fifty to four-hundred kids attended. There are no conflicts with soccer. It’s a great event.

-The Basketball Program will be officially returning this year. Everything regarding school is back to normal. Sign-ups will start in October, practice will start in December, and games will start the first Saturday in January.

-Tim put a copy of the new payroll system in the packet for the Commission Meeting. This is the new report that the Commission will see every time they come in to sign. It just gives some general details as to how it works. For the next few weeks however, Sammi and him will be doing payroll this new way and the old way as people are adjusting to the new system.

Chris asked if this is a mark of what the system would look like for all staff.

Tim said yes.

Chris asked how it works when everybody has a different pay rate because they will just see a total amount.

Tim said that everybody has a different pay rate. Unfortunately, that’s the only way that this project will run. Tim said that he can make recommendations to them so that individual pay rates can be seen in each line item.

Jim asked what ‘[CT]’ stand for.

Tim said Compensation Time. Tim pointed out the ‘[HRAD] -2.00’ and explained that they are still trying to figure out how to put Tim’s rate in the system because he currently goes in as thirty hours wages and ten hours childcare. It will show everything broken down through Park and Recreation will be for childcare and Park & Recreation with the ‘&’ symbol will be for the wages portion. Tim said that he will have it for them to see every week when they come in to sign so they can compare the numbers. Its going to take a while just to get used to.

-Once Tim officially finds out the date of the Town Meeting, he will reach out to the Commission so they can discuss when they would like to officially schedule the dog park meeting. He would just like to find a night that doesn’t conflict with RMS in case people want to attend both so they aren’t at the same time.

-Tim wanted to wish Raynham Youth Soccer and the Raynham Giants a great season this year.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary