MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

**Regular Monthly Meeting, June 1, 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 6:02p.m. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Josh made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4th meeting. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Jim called for old business.

**Old Business (1):**

1. *Gymkhana Building*

Tim updated that a couple weeks ago Chris and him met with a few of members of the New Building Committee to discuss what they will be doing with the Gymkhana building. Currently, it is still able to be legally done but they are looking at possibilities of sharing the space. They just have to make sure everything is legal first. Additionally, the bleachers have been removed due to safety hazards.

Chris said that the Commissioners took a walk through Gymkhana. During their meeting Ms. Iafrate gave them a blue print. As a commission, they came up with an idea of what they think would include the best of both worlds and best collaborate in sharing the building.

Jim moved on to new business.

**New Business Items (3):**

1. *Reorganization of the Commission*

Josh made a motion to nominate Mr. Chris Shaw as the new Chairman of Raynham Park and Recreation Commissioners. Jim seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Chris called for the next item on the agenda.

1. *Schedule Future Meeting Dates*

Tim mentioned that commission meetings are not usually held the week of July 4th which would be Tuesday July 6th and questioned if they should move it to the following week which is July 13th. The commission agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday July 13th. Tim further announced the future meeting dates of 2021: August 3rd, September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd, and December 7th. Jim made a motion to accept the future meeting dates and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Summer Field Use Applications*

Tim began listing the Field Use Applications.

-Special Olympics

Looking to use the RMS soccer/football field on Saturdays or Sundays for four or five blocks for flag football games. There are no conflicts on the weekends at the location. This is the first time they have requested this so there has not been a set fee.

Chris clarified that it is for four weeks, five different days.

Jim asked what they have requested before.

Tim said they have done a field day before and the charge was for a four-hour block.

Chris asked if this is a fundraising event.

Tim answered no it is not.

Chris stated that he wants to make sure to be fair and equal depending if it’s an event or fundraiser.

Tim said we usually do fifty percent.

Jim made a motion to approve the Special Olympics Field Use Application for the use of RMS soccer/football field for four weeks, five different days for a fee of $300. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

-*Adult Exercise Class*

An adult fitness group class is looking for five dates to use the parking lot at either Merrill or LaLiberte on three Sunday mornings and two Tuesday mornings. After speaking with baseball, there’s no conflict on Sunday mornings but the only conflict would be August 31st because at that point, teachers will be back doing their in-service so there will be cars coming in and out of the parking lot. They would like to do some steps as well and they do have insurance so they are covered. Right now, they have four classes unless they move that fifth one onto a field.

Chris said that we may not be able to approve it for a parking lot, the basketball court might be more ideal.

Tim said the challenge is the public usage during the weekends.

Jim agreed.

Tim suggested using the parking lot at South School because there’s less of a chance of traffic.

Jim said possibly LaLiberte.

Chris said they probably want to be out front in a high traffic area to encourage people to join. Chris asked when they want to start.

Tim said they want to start Father’s Day in a couple of weeks. Tim said the only other option would be to put them more behind field three and that’s if baseball isn’t out there.

Chris said that he doesn’t think there is a paved space for them, even at South School.

Jim suggested the tennis courts at RMS.

Tim said that there will probably be people using them and school is in session until the 18th.

Chris said we may not be able to approve it in time without picking a new location.

Jim suggested to resubmit.

Chris said they wouldn’t have a meeting in time for them to start.

Jim asked about the side of LaLiberte’s parking lot by the donation boxes on the grass so its not interfering with the traffic pulling in.

Chris said nobody parks over there so that could be an option. The cheerleaders used to practice over there.

Jim said we don’t really control those areas.

Tim said the only area he can think of otherwise is the concrete area out back behind LaLiberte.

Chris said the options would be that area for pavement or if they prefer being out front, it’s field one.

Jim asked what they charge per day.

Tim said they have the minimum of four hours or charge for the entire season which would be $600.

Chris asked if it’s Raynham residents only.

Tim responded that it’s multiple towns.

Jim made a motion to set the permit with the change to either field one or the paved area behind LaLiberte for a fee of $600.

Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

-Raynham Youth Soccer Camp

Permit for any one of the fields, they don’t need all three. July 25th – July 31st from 8:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. This will be mainly Raynham residents but there could be other kids as well, they’re expecting about sixty kids.

Chris asked if they charge for Jocks Camp.

Tim said we do not.

Jim made a motion to approve the Raynham Youth Soccer Camps, permit application for use of the soccer fields from July 25th – July 31st. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

-Salilasnet  
He’s looking at doing a speed and agility basketball camp. He would like to use the track at RMS for two weeks on Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:30a.m. – 11:00a.m. Tim spoke to Lou because he is starting his camp on the 5th. Lou said that’s not a problem, they can share the space. He’s more focused on basketball skills and he will be charging kids $20.

Jim made a motion to approve the Mark Evan’s field permit at the RMS track for two weeks on Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:30a.m. – 11:00a.m. for a fee of $600. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Chris called to introduce Emma.

Tim introduced Emma Cuddy, who is the new Childcare Administrator. She’ll be starting on the 28th after she finishes out the school year. She’s been working at LaLiberte and Park and Recreation all year. She’s done a wonderful job as the Childcare Site Coordinator at the Merrill school. She has been with Park and Recreation since 2013. She’s worked her way up on every single level so she knows what’s going on and what all of the workers are going through. Tim believes she is going to do a wonderful job. She got a lot of support from parents who, when they didn’t know she was applying, still reached out to him to recommend her for the job.

Jim welcomed Emma.

Chris welcomed Emma. He said he has heard wonderful things about her from staff and they look forward to her working with her. He said it’s great that they were able to find someone internal who could elevate to this position. Chris wished her luck and told her she’d do great.

Emma said she’s excited.

Tim said she’ll officially start June 28th. She’s still running Merrill and checking out LaLiberte. She works at Merrill from 6:45a.m. – 9:00a.m., goes to LaLiberte to work with the schools as a Paraprofessional from 9:15a.m. – 2:15a.m., and then comes back 2:30p.m. – 6:00p.m.

Chis asked if she is working towards becoming a full-time teacher.

Emma said she would like to be an art teacher.

Chris said that’s a great goal to have.

Tim said she’s an excellent free-hand artist; everything she draws looks like it comes right out of a book.

Chris made a final comment congratulating Emma.

Chris called for the continuance of Summer Field Use Applications.

Tim said that they received a request from the Cady family looking to name a field or an area in town named after Mr. Cady, who passed away suddenly last September. He seems like he did a ton of great work with the community. It’s something that we have to really look at because we don’t have many fields in town. All the fields at the schools are numbered. It’s all the matter of seeing what can be done to honor this gentleman.

Jim said a field may be challenging but a plaque or something similar may be an option.

Chris commented that they may be able to donate a bench for a specific area.

Jim said there was a family that donated a bench at Johnson’s Pond in memory of someone.

Tim said someone recently donated a tree in memory of someone as well.

Jim added that something similar might be best to honor his memory.

Chris agreed, there aren’t many fields in town left to name.

Tim said the only ones left to name are the ones at the baseball field.

Jim said we’ve been blessed in this community to have a number of people like Mr. Cady that donated unbelievable time for the kids in the community. It’s all the matter of determining how to honor that volunteerism.

Tim shared the thought of having an area in town somewhere, possibly Borden Colony, where we can put plaques for those who would like to donate in memory of someone.

Chris said a place for Community Service Dedication would be nice but standards would have to be considered.

Jim said even some gardens have similar things like rocks and plaques.

Chris said he thinks a bench would be even better that way you’re dedicating something that has a purpose other than simply dedicating to someone’s memory.

Jim said they would have to go through the selectman.

Tim said unless it’s on land that we run. When they put the bench at Johnson’s Pond, Tim wrote them a later just to make them aware. It just has to be determined where they would put this bench, he will reach out to Mr. Cady, and go from there.

Chris called for commissioner reports.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

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

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

**Chris:** Expressed his excitement about the Gymkhana building.

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Nothing to report.

**Tim announced the following:**

-Summer camp registration is underway, they are still looking for some help so if anyone knows anybody interested to let him know.

-Summer Concert Series starts on Tuesday July 13th so while were finishing up next meeting they will be kicking off.

-The Boy’s Lacrosse wanted to say thank you but unfortunately, they are unable to hold it this year.

-He is looking forward to Emma coming on and they’ll be good to go.

Tim concluded.

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary