



Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting
Minutes, August 5, 2019; 4:30 PM
Council Chambers

ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER – 5:021 PM – The meeting was called to order by Committee Liaison Public Works Director Chip Reeves. Committee members present were Greg Veilleux, Jeff Dobbs, Tommy Parham and John Kelly. (The meeting was delayed to allow a voting member to arrive and satisfy a voting quorum.) Others in attendance were Andrew Shea of the Acadian Little League; Jill Sawyer and Joanna Robinson of the Abbe Museum; pickleball advocates Suzie Foster and two unidentified gentlemen.

ITEM 2

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: As the first order of business for this new term year, Mr. Reeves opened the floor to nominations for Committee officers. He inquired if the Committee members wished to move the slate of 2018 officers to the current term. He also solicited any other nominations, with none proposed; the nominations were ceased. Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Kelly, to move the slate of 2018 officers to the current term; motion passed (3-0). The resulting Committee seats are as follows:

Committee Chair: Jeff Dobbs
Committee Vice Chair: John Kelly
Committee Secretary: Eric Ankrom

ITEM 3

Excused Absence(s): Eric Ankrom.

ITEM 4

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: *The Parks and Recreation Committee allows at this time up to fifteen minutes of public comment on any subject not on the agenda, and not in litigation, with a maximum of three minutes per person.* – None.

ITEM 5

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Kelly moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to approve the Agenda; motion passed (3-0).

ITEM 6

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of June 17, 2019. Mr. Kelly moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to approve the Minutes; motion passed (3-0).

ITEM 7
REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Request from the Vettes of Coastal Maine (Sponsor of Wonder View Inn) to Hold its Annual Car Display on the Athletic Field from 8:00 AM to 12 Noon on Saturday, May 30, 2020.

The applicant was excused for in-person representation for the review of this annual minor event for 2020. The application fee and insurance liability certificate have been received. In addition, the reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet was waived as there are no changes other than the date of the event. Mr. Kelly moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to approve the application; motion passed (3-0).

B. Abbe Museum: Presentation of Second Annual Abbe Museum Indian Market.

Abbe Museum Associated Director Sawyer provided an overview of the Abbe Museum, its Indian Market and the impact of the 2019 event, noting that the Market is created for artists. The 2018 event resulted in a 40% increased interest from vendors, artists, performers; continued interest is expected. She reported that 90% of the 5,000 visitors came to the area with the intent of visiting the Market. The Abbe Museum realized a 900% increase in sales. There was a lot of media interest and support. The Boston Globe is interested in the planned 2020 event.

Ms. Sawyer and Abbe Museum Finance Manager Robinson expressed appreciation to this Committee for special accommodations in 2019. Specifically, the extended timeframes in which to set up and break down reduced the tent rental contract by 20%, and also increased artists' confidence.

Mr. Veilleux remarked that, as a business owner in the shadow of the Village Green, the event was a great "business weekend" in early May. He inquired how the group intends to grow given the limitation of the Village Green. Ms. Sawyer responded that there are no plans for growth for three years, which will increase competition.

Mr. Kelly said he thought the event was great. He noted there was a donation box on site and expressed concern that it gives the public a sense that solicitations are allowed on public space. Mr. Reeves echoed that event holders are encouraged not to solicit. The next permit could be conditioned for this prohibition.

The 2020 Indian Market application may be received for review in early November – December 2019.

C. Athletic Field Snack Shack and Equipment Building Project: Acadian Little League Andrew Shea Presentation.

Mr. Shea reported that \$40,000 has been raised toward the \$75,000 fundraising goal, in part due to a significant donation. He provided a sample design indicating that donor sponsored tiles would adhere to the sides. Tiles would be colored beige with black lettering. The building would be gray with evergreen metal roofing, as was used for the Newport Drive comfort station. There is enough money now to develop the concept design and move ahead with the ground work for pad and sewer this fall. The scheme will not include fryolators, and the 14-foot x 14-foot building will not be used for storage. Mr. Kelly said to not short-change on the size. Mr. Veilleux acknowledged that there has been good progress.

Mr. Reeves inquired about the storage building schedule. Mr. Shea said that fundraising would conclude in the winter with construction to begin in the spring. The \$500 advertisement(s) in the Mt. Desert Islander has reaped \$1,500. Once the project is completed, the buildings would be turned over to the Town. The Committee expressed appreciation for the effort and results.

D. Tennis / Pickleball Court.

Mr. Reeves explained the \$115,000 budgeted improvement plans for the two existing tennis courts. The footprint would remain the same, raised grade which will improve drainage, and fence and net post replacements. This is the project that was expected, to include pickleball lines on the tennis courts. Ms. Foster allowed that she is agreeable to that, but other pickleball players want two dedicated pickleball courts and one tennis court. She added that the original tennis court size was not proper and is too short for good tennis playing. There was discussion about various combinations for pairing lines for the two sports. Net posts can be permanent or portable for multi-use courts. A couple options described were 1) two permanent pickleball courts with one tennis court or, 2) two regulation tennis courts with four pickleball lines incorporated on same. Ms. Foster indicated that she could be the spokesperson for the pickleball enthusiasts. Chair Dobbs suggested the group could consider fundraising, such as other specific interests were achieved for the skate park and the Park Street Playground improvements.

Mr. Reeves will research set-backs and take court measurements accordingly. He emphasized that there is a need to know tennis versus pickleball use. There were no tennis advocates at this meeting. He predicted that the whole Athletic Field complex is heavily used. Improvements will draw more use.

E. Other Discussion.

- FY21 budget needs are upcoming:

Village Green - trees both for the west and east ends. An arborist needs to look at fruit trees and the larger maples.

Grant Park – the service driveway has been improved; edging is needed.

Agamont Park – there are tree issues in the park.

Harborview Park – the fence needs to be done.

Skatepark – Rotary representative Katie Churchill has a different landscape proposal for the edge.

Bike racks – in general.

- Skatepark injuries – Mr. Parham has noted that injuries have decreased; the most serious are for heat exposure.
- Committee presentation to Town Council – after the budget proposal is developed. Since Chair Dobbs is chairperson for both the Town Council and this Committee, Vice Chair Kelly should make the Committee presentation to the Council.

**ITEM 8
NEXT MEETING DATE**

As needed.

**ITEM 9
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Banis
Recording Secretary