

Brooklyn Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting

(Via Cisco Webex Meeting)

7:03pm

March 8, 2021

Commission members present: Steve Danna, Kim Conroy,  
Cliff Soucy, Mike Gaudreau, Melissa Perkins-Banas, David Wilterdink

Absent: Harry Adams, Chris Toney

Also, present: Bucky Lohbusch, Rick Ives and 21 members of the Public

1. Approval of Regular Meeting minutes from February 8, 2020

**Motion made:** 1<sup>st</sup> Cliff Soucy 2<sup>nd</sup> Melissa Perkins-Banas All in Favor

2. Eagle Scout Presentation by Jaden MacCormack

Jaden presented his proposed Eagle Scout project, Creamery Brook Trail Tree identification . He explained the project in detail, including the material he will use, and feels the signage identifying the trees will be a perfect, permanent addition to the community and allow a learning opportunity for all.

**Motion made:** To approve Jaden MacCormack to complete his Eagle Scout project

1<sup>st</sup> Steve Danna 2<sup>nd</sup> David Wilterdink All in Favor

3. Public time

**Motion:** to move Public time to number #3 on the agenda and move the Eagle Scout presentation to #2

**Motion made:** 1<sup>st</sup> Kim Conroy 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Gaudreau

Diane Wimmer (public) member of the Conservation commission, would like a digital copy of the signs identifying the trees, in case of the need to replace the signs in years to come.

Felix Ramos ( public) volunteer, youth league coach , taxpayer

Questioned how many of the Commission member had children, at this time, involved in Brooklyn leagues.

The response was most members had, at one time, children in leagues, but now they are adults. The Commission members are dedicated to the children in the town of Brooklyn and bring their years of experience to the Commission.

Austin Tanner (selectman) Baseball fields at Riverside were built for play and tournament use.

Mike and Rick commented that outside organizations may need to be charged to prevent teams from other towns, showing up using fields. There needs to be a document including usage forms to prevent conflict. It is not the intention of the Commission to charge Brooklyn leagues.

#### 4. 2020/2021 Budget discussion and action

##### Minor changes-

Program budget- insurance stipend line item was moved, it will show a decrease.

Park/Maintenance cell phones fee increased -line item will be 1680.00 in the proposed budget. Copies of the changes will be sent to the Commission members.

Capital Proposals- replacement of wooden rails at Prince Hill

Recreation maintenance building has water leaks, the barn is also in disrepair.

#### 5. Michael Dragon Complex/proposed field use fees beginning fall 2021

After Bucky spoke with Mr. Dragon, the proposal for the bench in honor of Patrick Dragon will move forward. The bench will most likely be placed near or under the Michael Dragon Complex sign. There will be a potential dedication in the Fall. The funding of the bench will be covered from outside sources.

##### Discussion of the proposed field usage fees continued:

Bucky collected survey information from towns in Connecticut on field usage charges, at the direction of the Commission. He presented this information to the Commission for discussion.

The Commission has explored field usage fees for many years with no decisions being made. Discussion of this subject happens every year.

It was decided to have a subcommittee formed to discuss the issue, and have input from community members. Mike, Steve and Bucky will be on the committee. Any interested community members can contact the Recreation office or Mike Gaudreau for more information.

## 6. Recreation Program Update

Before and After School program is now running normal hours.  
Enrollment- 30 students in the morning 29 students in the afternoon

The Recreation Summer camp and School Summer enrichment program will join forces to offer 2 years of free programming to campers and students. The funding will be provided through COVID stimulus relief money, the town and school have received. There will be a maximum of 200 camper/student spots available.

## 7. Public Time

Comments continued on field use fees. Sandy Brodeur (public) suggested signs at the fields, stating field usage information.

G, Blevins (public) concerned that leagues would be charged during COVID, especially with the added expenses of PPE and cleaning supplies that need to be provided. He feels that communication between leagues and Recreation is necessary.

Aimee Jenna (public) asked where the usage fees would go, a line item or revenue stream?

Felix Ramos (public) concerned that underprivileged children would be prevented from playing if fees were charged.

A sub-committee will be set up to address field use fees.

## 8. Adjournment

Time: 8:53

**Motion made: 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Danna 2<sup>nd</sup> Cliff Soucy All in Favor**

Next meeting: April 12, 2021

Respectfully submitted: Chris Boyle