Preston Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Teleconference Call
7:30 pm

Call to Order/Roll Call
Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Members present:  Tom Turner, Kim Demara, Gary Deveau, Patricia Jankowski, Paul LoPresti
Members excused:  
Members absent:  Dan Coley, David Przygoda,
Alternates present:  Roberta Charpentier
Also present:  Amy Brosnan, Director, Roberta Charpentier, recorder, Mikel Brockway, Katie Iozzia

Chairman Turner seated Roberta Charpentier

Roberta Charpentier (recorder) read: Per Lamont’s Executive Order 7b, Participants are reminded to state your name and title before speaking. Please help us make this conference call as useful as possible by keeping your phone on mute when not speaking. We are keeping the line open to all participants by default, but if background noise becomes a problem, we will mute all participants and ask participants to use “chat” to be selectively unmuted. Also note that we will be recording this meeting to comply with open meeting requirements.

Public Comment
None

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by P. LoPresti and seconded by G. Deveau to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 31, 2020 as presented.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report
A motion was made by P. LoPresti and seconded by G. Deveau to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Correspondence Received/Sent Out
  • Received:  David Verhasselt resignation letter.
  • Sent:  request to BoS to reappoint Gary Deveau.
Park Maintenance and Development:
Covid-19
- People can still walk the track. Signs were posted to remind people to stay 6 feet apart.
- A. Brosnan asked for members input on when the Park should be re-opened because a request was submitted to use the ball fields on Memorial Day weekend.

Members agreed that they will continue to follow State guidelines.

General Maintenance updates
- Swings and Fire Truck are no longer safe and should be removed.
- K. Demara suggested a rebuilding project down the road.

A motion was made G. Deveau and seconded by P. Jankowski that the playground equipment that is too old and dangerous be removed.
All in favor. Motion carries.

- Flag pole rope broke and needs to be restrung
- Driveway cracks need to be filled.
- Field needs to be rolled.

Playground
- Community Build scheduled for April 18th and 19th was postponed and currently there are no updates.
P. LoPresti asked when the Playground will be delivered to Preston.
A. Brosnan answered that the Manufacturer is storing it for Preston and will wait for the Community Build to deliver it.

A motion was made by P. LoPresti and seconded by G. Deveau to table choosing a date for the Community Build until next month.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Basketball/Tennis Courts
Chairman Turner noted that the backboards have been removed from the basketball courts and the tennis courts are locked up.

A. Brosnan explained that she is working on the bid specs to get prices on filling the cracks, resealing, and re-striping the courts.

Membership & Elections
- Resignation: David Verhasselt
David Verhasselt resignation letter written by Patricia Verhasselt as Power of Attorney for David Verhasselt.

A motion was made by P. LoPresti and seconded by G. Deveau to accept the resignation of David Verhasselt with regret and thank him for his many years of service.
All in favor. Motion carries.
A. Brosnan noted that David has been a member of Parks & Recreation for a very long time, since 2003.
Chairman Turner suggested sending a card to the family and installing a brick at the Park with his name and years of service.

A motion was made by P. LoPresti and seconded by G. Deveau to purchase and install an engraved brick with David Verhasselt's name and years of service as a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission.
All in favor. Motion carries.

- Open position & alternate position
Katie Iozzia introduced herself and noted that she has been living in Preston for a few years. She is the Preston Middle School soccer coach and willing to help out where ever she can.

Mike Brockway stated that he is Chairman of Preston Little League and has been involved with youth sports for 7 years. He is looking forward to joining this crew and getting some things accomplished here in Town.

A motion was made by P. LoPresti and seconded by G. Deveau that Parks & Recreation recommend that the BoS appoint Katie Iozzia as a Regular Member of the Parks & Recreation Commission with a 5 year term ending March 31, 2025.
All in favor. Motion carries.

A motion was made by P. Jankowski and seconded by R. Charpentier that Parks & Recreation recommend that the BoS appoint Mikel Brockway as a Regular Member of the Parks & Recreation Commission with a 5 year term ending March 31, 2022.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Community Events:
Palooza
Canceled

Programming:
Programs & Activities Update
On-line programs:
Adult Yoga
Kids art and yoga classes
PYBSA
Mike Brokway stated that May 11th is the beginning of Little League activities. We are not sure what will happen here because CT's not scheduled to re-open until May 20th. The Preston's Little League Board discussed possibly forgoing the entire season.

Chairman Turner noted that because CT is shut down until at least May 20th, it will be easily until the middle or end of June before your able to put a team in a dugout. Is there a contingency plan?
Mike Brokway answered yes, depending on how long the restrictions go we are in the mindset of just gearing up for Fall ball.

**New/Additional Business**
A motion was made by P. Jankowski and seconded by G. Deveau to purchase and install a brick and purchase a gift certificate for Antonio Farinha to thank him for his years of service on the Parks & Recreation Commission.
All in favor. Motion carries.

A. Brosnan suggested having another fundraiser asking residents to purchase engraved bricks that are installed at the Park.

A. Brosnan received an email from American Cancer Society Relay for Life South Eastern CT requesting use of the Park for their event of 300+ people.

Parks & Rec members stated that the facilities at the Park could not handle that amount of people and the negative effect on the fields from that much traffic.

Commission members decided to respectfully decline this request.

**Public Comment:**
None

**Adjournment**
A motion was made by G. Deveau and seconded by P. Jankowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted

Roberta Charpentier