

Meeting of Mendham Township Recreation Advisory Board
Jan. 22, 2020, 7:45 pm

Attendees:

Jordan Orlins (MTC liaison)	David Guida (Recreation Director)
Adam Dubeck	Terry Gogerty
Diane Tolley	Damon Finaldi
Kimberly Gavagan	Trish O'Brien

Guest presenters:

- Heather Doyle and Sophia Bulnov, students at WMMHS, presented a proposal as part of their Service Learning Project: Library in the Parks.
- To boost and interest in reading, the students requested installing “Little Libraries” (free-standing book swap boxes) around town. They will build and install the boxes. Possible locations:
 - The Brookside Community Center
 - HS/MS
 - Along Patriots Path
 - Ralston playground or fields
- They will fundraise and get the project started through a community book drive
- Looking at late spring/early summer installation (possibly tied in with movie showing of “Inside Out” on 4/24)
- Rec Board was supportive of the project

Motion to approve meetings from Nov. 2019 mtg – moved and approved

2020 Board Chairperson/Vice Chairperson nominations:

- Adam Dubeck was nominated and approved to serve as Board Chair for another year
- Kimberly Gavagan was nominated and approved to serve as Vice Chair for 2020 and will continue as Recording Secretary as well

2020 dates:

- Mon. 2/3 – registration opens for all spring programs
- Sat. 2/22 – Polar Bear Plunge rescheduled at Brookside Beach (Township Committee members have all volunteered to participate; this is a fundraiser for the Ralston Playground)
- Fri. 3/13, 20, or 27—Potential dates for Girls Night Out (it was noted that 3/27 is Spring Break)
- Fri. 4/24—Mental Health Awareness event: Walk 6-8 pm, yoga and zumba classes, donate proceeds to mental health organization. Paper lanterns – promote mental health awareness
- Sat. 5/23 – Brookside Beach opens weekends only
- Sat. 5/30 – Patriots Race (after Memorial Day but before school lets out)
- Mon. 6/15—Projected Brookside Beach opens full time

Website improvements:

- Ended season minus about \$1,000 but operating costs for beach were not in the budget. Budget should include \$1,800 for water testing. Added to budget this year.

- Fewer camps last year, but better usage overall.
- Mendham Kids' Camp at MTES only goes until 3 pm. Considering adding "wrap-around" camp 3-6 pm aimed at working parents and to boost beach usage.
- Rates: Review rates for this year with goal of breaking even. Consider adding swim team, swimming lessons, and other programs. Keep free during the week for residents.

Mendham Gets Fit update:

- Doing well with good attendance:
 - Tuesday Barre – 5, Wed. yoga – 12, Thurs. Zumba – 7, Thurs. Barre – 2
- May consider adding evening class(es).
- Currently \$400 down but expect to make it up in coming months.
- Do additional publicity about drop-ins
- Classes are meant to be a service to the community and not a for-profit program

Ralston Playground update:

- Total cash in hand: \$34,879.46
- Quote for additional equipment (sensory dome and ribbon wall) \$37,884.73
- Proposal to authorize use of \$5,615.32 from Patriots Race for playground (approved)
- Suggest one additional fundraiser possibly:
 - MS dance at Community Club
 - ES: "Get out of the house/cabin fever/indoor field day" type event
 - Maybe joint event (younger kids during day; MS dance at night?)
 - Possible timing: Sun. afternoon after church/before dinner
 - Make whole "Ralston Playground Fundraising weekend" (Fri. dance, Sat. pancake breakfast, Sun. ES/field day)
 - David will check with schools to see if they are amenable

Fencing at Ralston:

- Fencing purchased and will be installed as soon as weather allows
- Consider approaching local Boy Scouts RE: project to build more attractive entry way to path (One on each end? Some type of an arch?)

Field use:

- Propose getting rid of all trash receptacles at all parks. Make all parks carry in/carry out. Not all trash makes it into the receptacles and they attract bees and bears. Board members in favor.
- Soccer field – parking lot lines to be done before soccer season begins.
- Damon would like to discuss with David making Mosely the "home base" field for football (no need to move equipment back and forth).
- Online field requests are now available
- Mental health training – with coaches being trusted adult in kids' lives, new mandate that athletic coaches go through mental health training to learn how to spot struggling kids. Training is one hour.
 - Terry noted there are two safety meetings in March that everyone must attend. Requested that it be coordinated with that.

Ski Club update:

- 172 registered (vs. 140 last year). 32 lessons.
- Couple of injuries reported (broken shoulder, concussion).
- Chaperones: Important to hire chaperones (vs. volunteers) to ensure high standard of professionalism and attention. Two chaperones per bus.

Senior programming:

- 23 attended lunch on Dec. 19, 2019
- Future programming:
 - Fri 2/21: Lunch and learn / BINGO
 - Fri 3/13, 20, or 27: Lunch and learn/BINGO
 - Chair yoga and card days proposed; once budget passes

2020 new goals:

- Dog park – Mayor Neibart and Town Clerk in favor of exploring possible location at India Brook over by dog kennels. Will review designs.
- Adult soccer – coming later this year
- Videos/website refresh
- Senior trips – Start in spring with athletic outings
- Athletic trips – local teams (e.g., Patriots baseball)

Misc:

- Local volunteer group led by Trishna Goswami looking into planning an Indian Holi festival in town this spring. No objections, but request budget is contained.
- Middle school play – carrying their own insurance now
- Spring break or summer pony share program
- Participated in Hanukkah lighting
- Field rental – for profit organizations (e.g., Tinker Garden). 80/20 split on profits from event.
- Twp budget meeting – March 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
- Pitney update – Proposal for walking path (discussed oval vs. something more meandering through landscaping). Will be vetted through Recreation.

2020 meeting schedule (approved):

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| • February 26 | • July 29 |
| • March 25 | • (No August meeting) |
| • April 22 | • September 9 |
| • May 27 | • October 14 |
| • June 24 | • November 11 |
| | • December 9 |

Motion to adjourn – carried.