

Meeting of Mendham Township Recreation Committee
June 5, 2019, 7:30 pm

Attendees:

Amalia Duarte (MTC liaison)	Trish O'Brien
Grace Chapis	Eric Mauriello
Rochelle Abraham	David Guida (interim Recreation Director)
Philip Inglis	Kimberly Gavagan
Terry Gogerty	

Guests: Melissa Saharko, Pat Zimmerman

Motion to approve meetings from May meeting – moved and approved with adjustment

Ralston Playground update:

- Grand opening recap:
 - Exciting event, good turnout (over 100 people)
 - Playground has been in good use – is regularly busy
- Sponsorship document:
 - All that's left are higher-ticket items
 - Initial inquiry indicates there is no room for a basketball court (full or half) due to wetlands
 - To use funds, suggest adding equipment geared toward older kids with a basketball theme
 - Discussed options for equipment (rope pyramid or "wavy climber")
 - Best approach: Provide vendors with specs for the space and ask them for recommendations for equipment geared toward older kids
- Future fundraising:
 - David would like to pursue active fundraising sooner vs. later before Pitney Project is fully underway; build on momentum from Grand Opening
 - Consider another brick campaign
 - Noted that thermometer on site with progress toward goal worked well.
 - Discussed providing "wish list" to community with costs (Let's finish the playground). Be clear about what's being promised (help us install/finish in spring 2020).
 - Way to make the "thermometer" more visual. Have playground equipment pictured – here's what we can buy vs. how much more we need to get the next item. Show progress on tangible items as we go.
 - Discussed surveying the community – list possible equipment and ask people to rank it (it also acts as a touch point, helps to get people involved, aware, excited about possibilities).
 - Suggested "meet ups at the playground." Promote use, people come, bring dinner, use picnic tables. Community events.

Patriot's Race:

- Forty people registered to date; expecting last minute sign-ups.

- Hand-out created for Mendham Magic banquet.
- Amalia has reserved a table at King's on Sat. 6/8. David will send signup – please come if you can for an hour or so on Sat. to promote the race.
- Putting signs/boards up around town (schools, King's, Town Hall, sites on main roads)
- Sponsors a bit lower than last year.
- Food covered/donated.
- If get to \$1,250 in sponsors, covered on most costs. Registration will cover t-shirts and medals. Expect to make some money off the event.
- Brookside Community Church covering water table, pancake breakfast.

Brookside Beach:

- Determined alcohol is allowed for parties/private events
- If you know of any lifeguards who need work, please let David know (may need waterfront certification?)
 - Consider Facebook post on Parents of Mendham HS Students group to help recruit
 - Consider posting on NextDoor app
- Suggest Rec members join the Beach this year to show support
- Grand opening planned for June after Patriot's Race

Capital projects:

- Baseball: Fencing
 - Contacted National Fencing / add round clamshell
 - \$9,945 to add cap; pay \$10K for entire thing
 - Need someone to remove the old one
 - Terry to talk to Kevin Shannon to see if it can be removed sooner
- Football shed at Mosley:
 - Football posted ad on Facebook to have work done; need to get plans/permit from Town first
- Mosley – fence to keep animals off field
 - Received quote for \$50K
 - David to go back to football with quote and pursue others
- Soccer – need fence to prevent balls from going into woods
 - Need fence length of field with possible gate to access.
 - Can be low fence (3-4 ft high); just need to stop ball from rolling into woods

Future events:

- Sports-themed event:
 - Considering event late summer/early fall
 - Sports organizations – possible “sports day”
 - Bubble soccer, bungee basketball, some type of baseball tie-in
 - Ask each group for \$500 to sponsor, have band, food truck, etc.
 - Community event with sports teams/rec present to recruit
 - Noted fall can be challenging with games, etc.
 - David will investigate further
- Grandparent's day dinner:
 - Grandparents day is Sept. 6

- Consider something around that? TBD.

Misc:

- Motion to set up student sub-committee for Recreation moved and approved
- If you see anything printed in the Mendham Observer-Tribune related to Mendham Recreation, please clip and/or let David know
- Pat Zimmerman – community resident inquired about the possibility of installing hockey rinks at the old tennis courts at Meadowbrook Park. Courts would need to be cleared of vegetation. Sell hot chocolate and do event there?

Next meeting: July 11, 7:30 pm, Town Hall