

Leisure Services Advisory Committee Minutes, Zoom Meeting, March 18, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Chairman Keith Finck. Minutes prepared by Jim Findley.

All members were present except for Kim Pigoga and Rich Lemieux.

Also in attendance were Ralph Mollis, NK Town Manager, John Rainone, NK Golf Course Operations Manager and Dan McDermott, Golf Course Superintendent.

Minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting were approved.

NK Golf Course (George Linnane)

- As a result of Covid 19, the course had a phenomenal 2020, with record levels of revenue and rounds played.
- John pointed out that many people started playing golf for the first time in 2020, so there will be some carry over even after the Covid restrictions are eliminated.
- The 48,000 rounds played in 2020 are close to the maximum that the course can handle.
- Dan reported that much of the golf course equipment will need to be replaced over the next few years. He is looking into leasing versus buying.
- Ralph said he supports investing in the golf course, but reminded everyone that budgets are tight.
- Kerry pointed out that courses like Exeter and Rolling Greens buy much of their equipment used.

Allen's Harbor (Rich Lipsitz)

- Still going "gang busters"
- Sold out for the 2021 boating season with a sizeable wait list. (28 waiting for moorings and 63 waiting for slips.)
- Dock repairs and improvements are underway.
- Harbor may need dredging. Ralph said he will discuss this with Steve King at QDC.

Rediscover NK (Anne-Marie Balboni)

- The Scouts are setting up geo-caching sites around town.
- The Arts Council is planning another "Art-Venture" treasure hunt
- The Wickford Arts Festival will happen this year. She is staying on top of state guidelines on crowd sizes and other issues.

Indoor Recreation Center (Jeff Smith)

- Jeff and his team have checked out several other indoor centers, including a very upscale center in Tiverton (Longplex) that had a hockey rink and 2 indoor dirt

soccer fields. Our goal is to have around 30,000SF of space along the lines of the South County Community Recreation Center.

- Ralph made several comments:
 - He is very excited about this project, and feels it could happen in 2-4 years.
 - This year's budget includes seed money for an architect to develop a rough concept and cost estimates.
 - It is important to consider on-going staffing costs as well as the building cost.
- We discussed the idea of combining the indoor recreation center with a new town hall, but the group generally felt it was better to keep them separate. The town hall is a much bigger budget, longer term project that could overpower the center.
- Kerry wondered if the 40 acres donated by Mark Hawkins could be used for the center. Chesley was going to investigate with Planning.

Other Recreation Department Activities. (Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs)

- Work on the beach playground is well underway and has started on the Wilson Park playground. Both will be ready by Memorial Day!
- She has applied for a grant to make improvements to Ryan's Park.
- We have two new Recreation Department busses

Q&A with Ralph George Linnane asked Ralph about how the budget works There are two main budgets:

- General, for activities funded by property taxes
- Enterprise, for activities like the golf course or Allen's Harbor, that are funded by the users
- The Recreation Department used to be included in Enterprise Fund, which really didn't make sense, since many of its programs aren't related to the income generating activities. It is now covered by the General Fund.
- Town administrative services, such as payroll or legal are allocated to the golf course, Allen's Harbor, etc., based on estimated usage.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.