

Leisure Services Advisory Committee Minutes for the July 16, 2020 (Zoom) Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chairman Keith Finck at 7:05.

All members present except for Jim Haley and Town Council Rep, Kerry McKay

Jim Findley was appointed the new secretary for the committee.

Minutes of the November 21st meeting were approved.

Golf Course. (Mike McGovern)

- The new equipment is being used to get the greens and fairways in good shape.
- A major overhaul of the 16th fairway is underway
- Two months of cart rental revenue (approximately \$49,000) was lost due to the Covid 19 restrictions
- Course usage is booming. Up YTD versus last year
- **Next Step: Chelsey** will track down revenues by the different breaks in the rate schedule, e.g. resident vs. non-resident, 9 vs. 18 holes, driving range, etc.

Indoor Recreation Center. (Jeff Smith)

- The subcommittee had good visits to the South County and Johnson centers. They were very different:
 - South County appeals to the whole community, with three basketball courts, a walking track, pickle ball court, and other amenities. It has 400 users on an average day.
 - Johnson was very basic – three basketball courts and not much else. They host a lot of basketball tournaments because of their low rental costs
- Visits to other facilities were cancelled because of Covid 19.
- The former Lowes building is probably not an option because it is now owned by QDC and was reported to be leased to EB once released by State as an overflow hospital.

Allen's Harbor (George Linnane)

- The waiting list is longer than it has been in years. (25 boats.)
- The proposed new rates were approved
- Adding a possible senior rate was discussed, but tabled. Most marinas do not offer a senior discount.
- Harbor users are generally complying with the social distancing and mask wearing guidelines

Town Beach Improvement. (Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs)

- The \$400,000 grant from the State has been awarded. She has already identified the \$100,000 matching funds required by the Town
- A large part of the grant will be used for new playground equipment, which is incredibly expensive.
- (Town beach sticker purchases are up substantially vs. year-ago.)

Other Recreation Department Activities. (Chelsey)

- The Wilson Park renovation is going well, however, the fields won't be available for use until 2021 to allow for full growth of turf.
- Planning is underway to upgrade all of the fields and playgrounds
- Summer camp is going well

Rediscover North Kingstown. (Anne-Marie Balboni)

- She is ready to roll when the Town/State opens up and does not require social distancing. Vendors have been lined up and we will continue to sell bricks for the Town Beach.

Other. (Keith)

- The Mill Cove Causeway project is nearing completion and awaiting funds from TC and grants under review. Final step will be purchase of walkway/bridge and installation.
- A new sign about Wickford created by Eating with the Ecosystem group ____ is going up at the Town Wharf and will be installed by the Town in several weeks.
- QDC will be funding the dredging of Allen's Harbor channel starting in 8 to 10 months . A environmental study is being conducted now.
- We may or may not have an August meeting depending on issues that require a LSAC discussion/vote.
- A recent addition to the requirements to serve on a Town Committee approved by the TC was read to the members of LSAC,

Motion made to adjourn and approved at 8:50.