

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(DRAFT) MEETING MINUTES – February 24, 2021

ATTENDING: Howard Raphaelson, Sheldon Dyer, Darren Cook, David Palmer, Don Field, Anna Knuttel and Anne Rash

NOT

ATTENDING: Jim Raynor, Ed Baxter

STAFF: Jay O’Keefe, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation

- A. Call to Order -The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Chair S. Dyer.
- B. Approval of Minutes – D. Cook motioned and D. Palmer seconded that the minutes from October 24, 2020 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee – none
- D. Co-Sponsorship Update - J. O’Keefe noted that Mansfield Little League will update their application at a future meeting given a recent leadership change with the resignation of long time president, M. Pietras. WAM soccer presented their application by new co-presidents J. Caranci and L. Donegan. D. Field motioned and A. Rash seconded that the application be approved pending final review by J. O’Keefe. J. O’Keefe will review the application and follow up with WAM as needed and report to RAC at the next meeting. Panther Lacrosse will submit renewal at an upcoming meeting in 2021.
- E. Old Business – J. O’Keefe provided information on current membership numbers, cancelations and freezes. MCC facility visit reports for 2020 were also reviewed . J. O’Keefe reviewed recent FY20-21 modifications to minimize a projected 973K deficit primarily related to impacts of COVID-19 on unrealized revenues. He noted that several recommendations were proposed to Town Council in November and option II-A was implemented in early December. This option would decrease the projected 973K deficit by an estimated 203K or 770K total deficit at the end of the fiscal year. It was also noted that other reductions were made to the budget at the beginning of quarter 2. J. O’Keefe updated the committee on the FY 21-22 budget process and that a final draft would be determined in later March. He shared that their will likely be a deficit in the 21-22 proposed budget due to first and second quarter anticipated impacts of COVID-19 on parks and recreation revenues.

J. O’Keefe provided an update on COVID-19 protocols and the challenges and time consuming process of maintaining updates for all parks and recreation programs, facilities and services. A MCC member guide created by K. Rontey was briefly reviewed and reflects some of the on-going changes.

J. O'Keefe reported on the new elementary school building project as it relates to Southeast Park, including that field C would be used as a construction staging area and will affect Mansfield Little League. Alternative plans for fields are being explored and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

J. O'Keefe provided an updated committee list with several renewals of members. He thanked all committee members for their continued guidance and support of parks and recreation services.

F. New Business –

J. O'Keefe provided an update regarding winter and spring programs that are being offered in-person and virtually.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.