

**Town of Provincetown
Recreation Commission Meeting
REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING
Minutes of Wednesday, February 10th, 2021**

Members Present, Robert Enos, Cathy Nagorski, Kristin Hatch, Brandon Quesnell, Michael Miller and Heather Rogers

Members Absent: David Oliver

Also in attendance: Recreation Director, Brandon Motta; Assistant Recreation Director Caroline Thompson

Call to order: Cathy calls meeting to order at 5:31 pm

Public comment: Members of the public will be allowed to speak in the order they have called in. All public comments will be limited to 3 minutes, and this is the only section that the public will be allowed to comment.

Board Member statements: Board members will be taken by alphabetical order by last name followed by the chair being last:

Robert Enos II- Wanted to talk about the back and forth with the commission and the roles of the board. Really hopes we can remember as a commission we are here to make the community better and put our egos to the side and think of the better of the community.

Kristin Hatch- No Comment

Michael Miller- Not Present

David Oliver- Not Present

Heather Rogers- Wants to reiterate what Robert said and agrees that we are here for the community and to help better serve the Recreation Department.

Brandon Quesnell- No Comment

Cathy Nagorski- I wanted to take this opportunity to address my fellow commission members in a formalized statement. It is fair to say each of us joined the recreation commission because we care and we want to contribute and make a difference. This commission is one of the most diverse boards in Town and each of us brings unique experience and interests. Collectively, we have the potential to personally impact the lives of many. Recreation is more important than ever as people are wanting to be outdoors, safely connect with others, enjoy their surroundings and make use of the facilities and programs we offer. When the Town acquired 387 Commercial Street and it was determined the care and custody of the land would fall to Recreation, this immediately forced us into uncharted waters. We are now responsible for this property and have worked hard on all things related to it- creating a Workgroup, discussing what can be provided in the interim, and formulating a plan for private use of the space. We will now begin the same process for Motta Field, the Town's crown jewel and the cornerstone of our outdoor recreation facilities. Today we will begin talking about our vision for the Commission based on the changes thrust upon us when we acquired a park. It's good to revisit our purpose especially when our responsibilities have grown and changed since the inception of the Commission. We all know change can be uncomfortable but I am confident this Commission can unite and work together and ultimately grow the offerings of the department. We are fortunate to have exceptional Town staff working alongside us and they most certainly have our appreciation and support as they navigate unprecedented demands requiring creativity and thinking outside the box. It is my goal as Chair to foster healthy discussion and facilitate efficient and productive meetings as we continue to tackle challenging agenda items and think about the role and future of the Commission. I've asked Brandon and Caroline to expand the agenda points and accompanying powerpoint to include more detail for the Commission. I appreciate the

feedback many of you have shared with me and I look forward to the contributions all of you make on a regular basis. I encourage each of you to continue to think introspectively about your commitment to the Commission as we further our goals together. I am proud of what we have accomplished thus far and I know we have lots of exciting things ahead. I extend a heartfelt thanks to each of you and most especially to Brandon and Caroline. Thank you.

Old Business

A) Motta Field Grant Update- Votes May be Taken

Brandon Motta updates the board on the current status of the Motta Field Grant and the timeline:

- A CPA request for \$100,000 for the community planning process of Motta Field was submitted December 30th .
- Initial review of the project between the Recreation Department and the Community Preservation Committee will begin on Monday February 22nd .
- CPC will hear a presentation from the Recreation Director and ask questions related to the project in order to decide to fund the project in full, partially, or reject the project.
- If approved, all requests will be presented at a Public Hearing to allow the public to weigh in on the project.
- CPC then recommends or doesn't recommend to town meeting for approval • Town Meeting is May 1st, 2021, Rain date May 8th.

Cathy opens up the board for questions or comments from the board members:

Brandon Quesnell- Planning Board Meeting is discussing the Motta Field CPC on their agenda. Would like a quick synopsis of what is needed. Health Department is also interested and Brandon Motta may want to reach out to them

Cathy asks about a contingency plan if only partial funds are received. Brandon Motta says the Gift Fund is available.

Kristin asks Brandon Motta if he has talked to Tim about other funding sources for planning. IF he uses the CPC for Planning he may want to use it later for actual construction.

Brandon Motta thanks Kristin for the reminder and will talk to Tim and look into.

Kristin says she will be recusing her vote for the CPC Meeting because three members of Rec Commission serve on the CPC Board.

B) 2021 Provincetown Recreation Department Mission Statement, Name Change and Implications- Votes May be Taken

The conversation about changing Provincetown Receptions Mission Statement and Name opens up. Brandon Motta shares the slideshow showing the following and discusses his finding with David Gardner:

Two Items needed to be defined before moving forward with name change:

- 1) Defining/updating/changing the Commission Mission statement, and scope of responsibilities. **What is it that the Commission is trying to achieve?**
- 2) Determine if the updated mission statement and scope constitutes a name change to Parks and Recreation Commission or Recreation and Parks Commission or something else found fit by the commission.

Brandon Motta then shares his findings in accordance with the Massachusetts State Legislature Chapter 45 Section 2, that there has been no parks commission elected, nor have the responsibilities been assigned to any board, so the Select Board acts as Park Commissioners.

- A request to become park commissioners would be a request to the Select board to relinquish such duties to the hypothetical group of Parks and Recreation Commission. If name change is deemed necessary by the Recreation commission, a formal request with mission statement, goals, and scope needs to be submitted to the Select Board Office for a joint meeting.

Robert- One question- if the board needs to elect five people would that dissolve the Recreation Commission? Robert agrees that the board needs to figure out what they want to do. He feels that some of the park responsibilities have been put on the commission and thinks we should do all of it. If it increases the scope, so be it. Feels very strongly about moving forward with it.

Kristin- Not sure where to start. Does not support the effort. Kristin mentions that they have had parks under their purview but does not understand the difference with the Waterfront Park. Kristin just doesn't understand why and we should back up a little bit and why we are pursuing this subject with all the other things we are working on.

Cathy asks if Suzanne's Garden has been under the custody and care of the Recreation Department.

Kristin says yes and really thinks the change is condescending and taking away power from the select board and the other town staff. Says Cathy's tone was coming across as condescending.

Cathy voices her apology for coming off as condescending.

Kristin asks Robert why he is looking for change and is concerned on why the board wants to make this change. Wants to know what we are trying to achieve and is taking away from the day to day Recreation Department. Would like to have a conversation about it.

Michael Miller joins meeting at 5:50pm

Mike shares that he endorses a clearer statement on what we do and why we do it. Would like the board to discuss their short and long term goals. Personally, it is more about the clear distinction about responsibilities, goals and expectations from the select board and others. I think this is a great conversation and to the point of change, I think it needs to happen.

Kristin interjects and asks why, Mike says because it is mediocre. Mike asks Kristin if he can continue, Kristin apologizes for interrupting.

Mike says compared to other towns and places he grew up saying it is mediocre is putting it nicely. Thinks the board should be striving for excellence and is willing to get his hands dirty to help out and do that. Endorsing whatever can help facilitate getting goals in place.

Heather- Supports discussion and shares that she supports everyone's positions and opinions but would like to hear Brandon and Caroline's. Reminds everyone that the board is not a business and we should be here to help the community. Suggests that maybe parks could be a separate committee and work alongside the Recreation Department. But taking on Parks would eliminate the roles of other departments.

Brandon Q- Robert and Mike you have hit the nail on the head. Got on the board because the town is changing and wants to be able to provide programs, resources and services to everyone who lives and visits town. He discusses the active roles of recreation and how the two parcels of Town being Waterfront Property and Motta Field. Brandon Q discusses the role of the select board and how they do not have the time to improve parks and parcels in town. Brandon Q. also talks about the Planning Board and their experience with the select board when CVS came to town. They are stretched thin and will put off the

parks if anything happens. He is for change and is excited about it. Does not see why we would sit back and be passive.

Cathy- Does the Select Board know they are responsible for the Parks?

Brandon Motta assumes so. Cathy then asks how the Waterfront Property became Recreation's. Brandon Motta says the property was deeded to the Recreation Department. It is his understanding that parcel purchases go to the Select Board.

Cathy- Are there other parks in the Town we are not in custody of? Yes, such as Bar Relief and a few others.

Kristin asks Brandon who owns Motta Field- Brandon says the Select Board. Kristin just wants to mention that before Brandon Q. and Mike joined the board we were working on Motta Field and other things for Recreation. She just does not feel there is a reason to characterize someone on a committee about being sleepy or not working. We have been working on the Motta Field project for a very long time and it has always been the Select Board who has had custody. Happy for the new people on board but need to get away from characterizing the people on the board as wanting progress and not. I Hope the board can be a little.

Cathy asks if the board is going down a plausible road by asking to make adjustments and changes to Motta Field.

Cathy wants to acknowledge Heather's request to hear from Brandon and Caroline.

Brandon Motta agrees the Mission Statement needs to be worked on and the board needs to determine and will keep his opinion about name change to himself.

Caroline seconds Brandon Motta's statement and will reserve her opinion till later discussion. She has worked with Brandon for many years and respects his wishes. Part of the reason she took this job was to help better the community and serve as a community member.

Brandon Q. shares that Russ may have better input going forward based on the results from the Park Plan and if the LPC Plan can also add additional input.

Robert suggests creating a sub group to help create a mission statement because he is unsure that the entire group can all discuss to take on. He offers to create one with Brandon Motta and then bring to the next meeting to fine-tune.

Brandon Q. motions Robert and Brandon Motta to work together and come up with a mission statement.

Kristin Seconds

6-0-0

Sub Committee Reports: Votes May be Taken

A) 387 Commercial Street Working Group Update:

Cathy shares there was a hold up because of the conflict of interest with the Town Manager. The group will be holding interviews next week and are looking forward to it. Brandon Motta adds that he and Caroline have been doing reference checks and are excited for interviews.

B) Skate Park Subcommittee: On January 29th, 2021 the new formed Skate Park Subcommittee met and discussed the future of the Provincetown Recreation Department Skate Park. Members present were Kristen Hatch and John Andrade, Brandon Motta and Caroline Thompson were also in attendance. The group talked about the location of the park, the hypothetical timeline and forming some sort of "Friends of the Skate Park" non-profit organization.

Brandon Motta talks about his meeting with John in-person at the skate-park. They plan to reuse the light and redrill the half-pipe to add strength. They are also going to grind down the ramps so they can repaint and have it become smoother- should last a couple years. The park is in workable condition. Weather has pushed back the repairs but will commence as soon as the snow disappears.

Kristin asks about maybe having a skate-park themed event once it looks a little better.

Cathy asks Brandon M. about any safety issues? Brandon Motta says the safety issues will be addressed during the repairs.

New Business:

A) Provincetown Schools Relationship Building- Votes May be Taken

Brandon Motta discusses his communication with the school and how they are in touch very often for a numerous amount of things. He emphasizes that communication is good. In the past it has been difficult in the past but the new administration has been very good with communication.

Brandon Motta shares that the school is now in one of our Recreation Rooms and commenced remote learning there as the gym gets repaired.

Brandon Motta talks about the Recreation Commission forming a relationship with the School Committee and having a joint meeting or having a representative.

Brandon Q. asks Robert if his wife is on a School Board. Robert says that his wife is the chair of the School Committee and would be more than willing to sit in on a meeting or two to collaborate ideas.

Brandon Q. asks Brandon Motta what/how it is like to request for use of a facility for future use?

Brandon Motta says it is pretty easy and the school has us on the top of their list.

Brandon Q. then asks about tasking children with similar programs if we can combine programs to make them more efficient for everyone?

Brandon Motta shares that a lot of the issues were arising in the Middle Schools years. Want to keep in mind that the Recreation Department is provided for kids who may or may not like the sport and want to give it a try, where Middle School is more "pro".

Robert asks Brandon Motta about having Recreation only sports and then school sports start after Middle School. Maybe a discussion we can have with the school committee.

Brandon M. is all about putting the resources into what we can. Thinks the school could help and is open to any conversation with the school and what is in the best interest of the kids with sports. Open to any and all conversations

Directors Report:

A) West End Basketball Court Update- Votes May be Taken

Brandon Motta updates the board that we are in the final stages of planning. Discusses the vendors and struggle of finding someone to do the top coat. Waiting for the final drawing from Billy. Historical and Zoning has approved the design.

Cathy asks about the timeline. Brandon Motta says it is similar to the East End and was not closed for more than a few weeks.

B) Spring 2021 Update- Votes May be Taken

- Before COVID we worked with the PTA, the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum to do the Annual Spring Celebration

- last year would have been in the 4th Annual !

- Last year we "replaced" this event with Bunny Drive By - a safe alternative event with the Provincetown Police Department . - Discussions between Monument, PTA and Seashore Pointe, will commence next week. Offer an alternate event.

Possible April Vacation Programs: Art Workshop with PAAM Youth Sports: informal drop in dates where sports can be performed in safe drills.

C) Summer 2021 Program Update- Votes May be Taken

Planning a program identical to last summer- changes will vary depending on state guidelines. - Capacity will depend on state regulations, and the number of staff.

- Registration- State regulated who could attend last year, we are planning the same Tiered Registration Process until notified otherwise.

- Fees: Staying with the current fee schedule, families that had financial issues, were provided with adequate funding through grant resources last summer. No children were left out due to funding.

Brandon Motta talks about the Tents that the Department is looking to purchase.

Cathy asks if anyone has questions

Brandon Q. asks who would have ownership and would perform maintenance.

Brandon Motta says that it would be in Recreation ownership however DPW would maintain.

Kristin motions to pursue and purchase the tents for Recreation

Cathy asks if this is the cheapest

Robert Seconds

6-0-0

Brandon Q. asks about the summer program and the addition to the school population. How are we going to accommodate the additional children?

Brandon Motta talks about what the State will allow and what our Staffing looks like.

Brandon Q asks if we could work with other towns to help the overflow of our children once the program fills up and if other towns agree if we could come up with some sort of transportation for the program to get the children to the appropriate places.

Brandon Motta says in the past transportation has not been provided. The transportation budget was wiped.

Brandon Q. shares that maybe the school department may be able to help.

Assistant Directors Report:

A) Virtual Adult & Children Programming Update- Votes May be Taken- Caroline discusses the current virtual programs that are being offered for both the children and adults by the Recreation Department. Two weeks ago they started offering a series of different classes such as; Drawing Class, Family Night Fridays and a Craft Class. The Recreation Department has had such success that they have extended program offerings to the weekends by adding a new class called Move & Groove. Caroline reiterates to the board that her and Brandon are always coming up with more programs to offer for the children and adults. The Recreation Department is also working with the Library and COA in collaboration efforts to offer more programs.

Adult programs include Movement Class with Bart, Winter Walk Challenge (All Ages) and Recovery Yoga with Jen Kopec.

Caroline also mentions that February Vacation will include all the current classes being offered in addition to the new Move & Groove class on Wednesday February 17th and then every Saturday after that.

Other:

Approval of December 16thth, 2020 Minutes

Robert motions to approve minutes as revised
Mike seconds
6-0-0

Approval of January 13th, 2021 Minutes
Robert motions to approve
Brandon Q. seconds
6-0-0

Brandon Motta requests we meet March 3rd
and a tentative second meeting date of March 24th.

Cathy motions to adjourn meeting
Robert seconds.
6-0-0
Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

