



## Boylston Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes



### Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m. in the Nicholas Ward Meeting Room

Place: Boylston Town Hall, 221 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505

- I. Call to Order – 6:32pm by Chairperson, Eric Hoffses
  - a. Members Present: Eric Hoffses, Steve Nason Jr., Claudine Underwood
  - b. Coordinator: Pam Frechette
  - c. Public: Mark Anttila
  - d. Members Arielle Strzelewicz and Alison LeBlanc joined the meeting just after opening.
- II. New Coordinator Introduction  
Eric introduced new coordinator, Pam Frechette
- III. Coordinator Update

Pam explained that she's been on the job for seven days. There have been a lot of meet and greets with other town employees, like the Town Administrator, Town Planner, and Town Treasurer. She's also been able to meet with representatives from the Council on Aging, as well as the Library Director. The Town Clerk, gave Pam a training session on how to add information, like agendas and minutes, to the town site. Pam reports she completed the required conflict of interest training and gave her certificate to the Town Clerk. Pam also did an on-line training session with MyRec.com, the Parks and Recreation website. And spent some time training with Eric Hoffses, as well. Pam got a quote from a new porta-potty company, but they aren't competitive. Pam explained that she would like to get to know the leaders of other organizations in town to learn about their activities and plans to avoid duplicating the similar events. Pam has also been taking an inventory of items currently stored in the office as time permits. Pam has met the Coordinator for the Police Department and has received the dates for the Police Academy. They are currently being added to the calendar. Pam is looking into programming to appropriate to apply for grants from the Cultural Council before the October deadline. Pam also discussed with the Council on Aging the possibility of doing some cross-generational programming. Some investigation on movie night is being done. And a call was taken about hosting the Town Wide Yard Sale again, which Pam thinks is easy enough to do. It appears in the past it was done on the third weekend in

September. Pam gave Arielle the signs for Camp Harrington. Arielle will give Pam contact information about a porta-potty vendor. Claudine asked if Pam needs help and gave her phone number as a contact if needed since she works in town.

Summer Ideas/Movie Night - Claudine gave an overview of a past movie night. Parks and Recreation rented a blow-up screen and the intent was a night of free entertainment for the community. (Pam indicated the same vendor had a price increase of about 12%.) Food trucks were scheduled, and a local band provided entertainment at the start. Unfortunately, it had to be rescheduled and the food trucks couldn't make it, so the group made hot dogs. Claudine suggested an Italian Food truck that she's had food from. The Kona truck did come and that worked well. Arielle mentioned that food trucks work out of Wagner and it might be easy to call there and see if any are available. The organization is WooTrucks and there's a commercial kitchen for them there. Mark Anttila mentioned there was a pickleball demonstration before the event.

A fall battle of the bands was also recommended with possible bon fire with a potential of working with Keith's Music House (they are currently in the process of moving, and are temporarily operating out of BES).

#### IV. Basketball Camp

Eric said basketball camp will run in two weeks and is geared toward middle schoolers. There are about 15 kids signed up, ideally 20-25 would be good. The two gentlemen running it are top-notch coaches. Pam and Eric will investigate setting up electronic payments on MyRec.com. If it goes well, Eric said they may try different age groups. The camp will run July 19-22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00am-12:00pm. Mark Anttila indicated that there's no buffer between camp and pickleball on the schedule. Eric indicated the gap was for games in case they ran over, but the camp will stop precisely at 12:00pm and pickleball may need to start a little later those days. Claudine indicated she shared it on Tahanto's Facebook page and the BBRSD Facebook page. It's already been shared to the Neighbor's page by Eric. Arielle indicated there's specific class pages that it may be shared as well. Alison said that MyRec.com can be used for email blasts to anyone that has an account, which could be a good way to reach people that don't use Facebook. She's not sure how it's done or if the information can be targeted by age groups. Mark Anttila said he's used it when he had admin rights for Pickleball. It can be downloaded to a spreadsheet and can be sorted by age. He offered help if needed. Claudine mentioned that grandparents may be interested in sending kids. Arielle and Eric agreed. Steve mentioned that the sign at 140/70 might be a good place to advertise. Mr. Mecum is the contact to email for the Lion's sign. Claudine sent a text requesting it be advertised on the sign. Alison said events share to Facebook are usually shared by the Item. Claudine texted Jan at the Item, too.

#### V. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MJP Scholarship Cornhole Tournament

This has been held on the football field in the past and was successful. Eric stated there's usually a fee, but for a memorial tournament, the fee is typically waived. The group was in support of the tournament and waiving the fee.

*Vote: Arielle made a motion to waive the fee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MJP Scholarship Cornhole Tournament. Steve seconded. All members voted in favor.*

## VI. Budget Update

Eric stated that the end of the fiscal year was June 30<sup>th</sup>. After that date, the revolving fund reset to \$10,000.00. Some of the playground equipment ordered in the last meeting has been received (dump trucks, buckets). The scale is ordered and on the way. An email about the gaga pit came through looking for payment, as there's a price increase on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Eric will work with the Town Accountant to check on the status of the check. The regular budget resets, too. Pickleball won't have much coming in the summer, but there is some. Eric reports there's a group that rents the gym every Sunday and they will pay monthly, so we'll have some money coming in from that. At a future meeting, the Boylston/West Boylston Youth Basketball League will come, as they are interested in helping put new basketball hoops in the Hillside Gym. Some quotes are roughly \$8,000.00 to remove the old wood backboards and put in new. One quote was \$12,000.00, and another \$15,000.00. The Boylston/West Boylston Youth Basketball League may be interested in giving \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 toward the project if Parks and Recreation covers the rest. That will be on a future agenda. Eric said there are only 2-3 companies in New England that do that type of work. Arielle suggested a free throw event to raise money. Eric said that's why he's working to set up basketball camps. Mark Anttila said that he sent out a list to his organization promoting the Hillside Gym and rental potential.

## VII. Citizens' comments: (Except in unforeseen or emergency circumstances, any matter presented for consideration of the Commission by a member of the public shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation. A scheduled time on a future agenda may be necessary, at the Commission's discretion.)

No commentary.

## VIII. Future Agenda Items (topics to be proposed for discussion at future meetings)

Eric said Elaine Jones with the BCPA group would like to be added to the August agenda. Mark Anttila is part of that group and said they are trying to promote the BCPA at events to generate interest, answer questions, and gain support for the upcoming vote. They would like to have a presence at any community events and raise awareness jointly with Parks and Recreation. Let Mark or Elaine know of any upcoming events,

Mark Anttila mentioned he's thinking of ways to potentially get the floors at the Hillside Gym refinished so that permanent lines can be painted on it for all sports and is looking at alternative ways to fund it. Pickleball funds, he said, will help. Quotes have been as high as \$8,000.00

Mark said it wasn't clear how thick the wood is to be able to be refinished. Steve said the floor was replaced due to buckling/water damage within the least 15-18 years, so there should be plenty to refinish. Steve will check it. Mark suggested fixing dead spots and said Bob did a great job putting a wax finish on the floors.

Mark said he would like to do it before the winter. Alison questioned if maybe the funds from the Police Academy could be used to fund refinishing the floor? It could be worth asking where that money is used and if Parks and Recreation can use some.

Steve mentioned Gardner just got a large grant from the state for a bridge over Rte. 140 for bike/walking trails. Alison suggested maybe looking into different grants at a future meeting. Eric said there might be some in town, as Crest does, so maybe there are others. Claudine suggested Walmart and Kohls and maybe we can check there. Alison wondered if some businesses in town may provide grants. Mark said they got free supplies for pickleball from Franklin Sports, so maybe that could be an option. Mark said he'd see what he can find out. Claudine said the Fuller Foundation could also be a possibility.

Alison suggested adding to a future agenda the idea of making a wheelchair accessible path at the Center Courts Park playground (by pushing the porta-potties back) to get to the ADA compliant playground. And looking to install smaller a multi-use court there. She would like to get quotes on that to know how much it will cost. Arielle suggested maybe aligning with the Council on Aging for that project. Alison suggested maybe applying for grants for this project.

#### IX. Adjournment

Vote: At 7:04 Arielle made a motion to end meeting. Claudine seconded. All members voted in favor.