

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from Monday August 14, 2023

Members Present were: Mark Eccher, Kinjal Patel. Wayne Simarrian and Larry Pollard.

Ex Officio Members Present: Mike Honekamp, Kevin McCarthy and Ryan Jette

The meeting took place at the Recreation Department Office.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Simarrian at 7:01 PM.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read.

♦ Fields and Playgrounds Updates

- a) Beaver Street Park: The Beaver Expansion Project has seen new playground turf installed. The new scoreboard will be installed in mid-November. The press box and ADA improvements are scheduled to go out to bid September 1st. The walkways in front of the Beaver Street parking lot have been installed. The obstacle course is being used extensively.**

The newly upgraded Nason Street Tot Lot will have new irrigation installed. The newly upgraded lot has seen extensive use.

The design for playground enhancements at Fletcher Field has been completed. The enhanced playground will have a baseball theme. November 6, 2023 is the date set aside for installation of the new playground equipment. Other enhancements at Fletcher include new swings and restriping the parking lot for handicap accessibility.

The King Street Park Improvements Meeting has been scheduled for mid-August. Funding for the King Street Park Improvement Project will come from the CPC in July of 2024.

Handicap accessibility is a priority for improvements at the King Street Park and at all Franklin parks. The Town Administrator has indicated that he wants to hold off on the King Street Park Lighting Project until other improvements have been completed. The funds for the King Street Park Lighting Project will be made up of \$60,000 from the Fletcher Fund with the balance being paid for by the Franklin Youth Soccer Association. It appears that by moving the start time to 8:00 AM, the noise factor at the King Street Park Pickleball courts has been adequately addressed.

- b) Franklin Recreation Department News: The Recreation Department's Fall brochure has been released. As of August 15, 2023 Franklin Recreation Department's receipts have already totaled \$95,000. The total receipts for all of August 2022 totaled \$115,000.**

◆Fletcher Fund

Ryan reported that some projects approved to be paid with Fletcher Fund monies have yet to be completed. Franklin Girls Softball and Franklin Youth Baseball still have projects to complete that have received Fletcher Funding approvals. Board members agreed that in the future, follow-up by Recreation Board members is needed to ensure the timely completion of projects approved with Fletcher Fund monies.

Open Space Recreation Master Plan

The Open Space Recreation Master Plan has been designed and has been out for citizen comments. The plan once approved will take effect for a period on 5 -7 years.

◆ Old Business

The Committee agreed to explore ways to honor Nello P. Bassignani Jr to recognize all of the contributions that he made to the community, to the youth sports programs and to the youth of Franklin. Committee members agreed to engage family members in the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Recreation Office on Beaver Street.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Pollard

RECEIVED
2023 AUG 28 A 11:02
TOWN OF FRANKLIN
TOWN CLERK