

MINUTES STOCKBRIDGE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Stockbridge Parks and Recreation Commission was held on March 9, 2022 at 4:30 PM
Present were Steve Knopf, Nicole Fairaux, Nick Fredsall, Michael Canales and Hugh Page.

Town resident Katie Szwed presented a proposal for building a splash pad in town. Potential locations with access to town water include the ball field next to the town offices, or Park Street if flooding is not an issue. Costs vary depending on configuration, however Katie showed us a concept that would cost approximately \$100,000. Michael Canales worked on a similar project in North Adams and will contact them to get a copy of their state grant application and RFP. This will be researched after the May town meeting, with Nicole supporting the effort.

The commission reviewed and finalized the requested 2023 operating budget and capital expenditure request. The commission approved requesting \$5,700 for Foresight Land Services to create plans for improving beach sand in capital budget, and approved a request for \$25,000 for the beach house roof and skylight replacements. The commission agreed to renew Pilling proposal for garden maintenance at the beach and Park Street, but will explore using DWP or RFP for better pricing next budget cycle.

The commission is going to request a new position of a full-time Parks and Rec Manager under Highway Department supervision.. Michael estimated a \$110K salary.

The commission agreed to hire 3 full-time lifeguards for the upcoming season. The optimal schedule would be to have 2 guards on duty Wednesday through Sunday. We are considering changes to the hours of operation at the beach to accommodate visitors after 5:00 PM. Michael Canales is going to research a contract with Berkshire South.

The commission agreed to order 2 new kayak racks for the beach at a cost of approximately \$800 each. They will be wooden racks with 6 slots each. We will use online registration for kayak rack permits on April 1. However due to construction on the beach parking lot, the beach must be closed as an active construction site. Hugh reported that he expects to resume work in the coming weeks and hopes to complete by end of May. Michael will look into a revolving account for kayak rack maintenance using the funds collected for kayak permits. At Hugh's request, we will plan a site visit to the beach in April or May.

Nick reported that he priced stone steps at Chester Granite at \$10 per sq/ft to build a canoe launch at the Park Street river entrance. CPC approved the cost of the stone steps, however we will require engineering plans to present to the Conservation Committee.

The dome climber and a picnic table were destroyed by a fallen tree. An insurance claim was submitted. The commission will investigate options for replacing the equipment.

We still have not received bids for tennis courts. The beach reciprocity proposal to share access with Lee and Lenox residents was deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM. A recording of the meeting will be put on the CTSB website.