

Branford Board of Recreation
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2020

Members present: Zoom meeting due to COVID-19

Paul Criscuolo, Chairman

Deborah Conklin

Jeanne Crowley

Helen 'Bimmie' Herget (signed into the meeting late)

Bill O'Brien

Staff Present:

Alex Palluzzi, Jr

Dale Izzo

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm by Chairman, Paul Criscuolo.

II. Approval of meeting minutes

A motion was made to approve the March 11, 2020 meeting minutes

1st: Bill O'Brien 2nd: Deborah Conklin passed 4-0

III. Correspondence

No correspondence.

IV. Public Comment

There was not public comment

V. Directors Report

Alex provided an update about staffing due to Coronavirus COVID 19, we continue to take precautions cleaning the building and wiping surfaces. All staff are working remotely. We have weekly virtual staff meetings. The phones are being transferred to Dale and she is answering the phones. There have been emergency blood drives that are being conducted and the selectman's office and ESHD is overseeing them. There is a mailbox outside the main entrance on the first floor for folks who might need to drop off information. Alex gave a detailed report about the parks: The maintenance staff continues to do spring clean ups in all the parks.

Foote Park:

Bathroom restoration project is moving forward. The tennis court replacement of the clay courts are on hold for now.

Veteran's Park:

We have a lighting project request in the works to replace with all LED lights. Waiting on the budget process.

Chet's Pond:

We are trying to get this stocked with trout. The DEEP has been contacted and permit forms have been filed.

We have the parks staffed with supervisors each night and on weekends, weather permitting.

Parker Park:

We will be moving forward with paving the road way. Our department is working with DPW, town engineer and the First Selectman.

In response to COVID-19 our parks are open, but all tennis, pickle ball, basketball, etc courts are closed, including playgrounds. We have signs posted.

Budget:

Alex provided a detail overview of the proposed 2020-21 departmental budget that was presented last week. It was a 1.9% increase due to contractual obligations. The BOF recommended our full budget to the RTM, with the exception of the full time position request was cut and will remain PT. The biggest change to our budget was to the Community House utility account will be transferred to GGB's budget to manage. Alex reviewed the recreation fund balance and the request to transfer is \$106,854.22

A motion was made to transfer the \$106,854.22 from the Recreation Fund to the General Fund.

1: Bill O'Brien 2nd: Deborah Conklin

Roll call vote: Paul Criscuolo, Bill O'Brien, Deborah Coklin and Jeanne Crowley all voted yes, Helen Bimmie Herget was not in attendance yet when the vote was taken.

VI. Asst Directors Report

Dale gave a detailed report about spring registration and the effects that COVID-19 has had on programming. Folks have been registering for summer camps, but the numbers are very low. Staff is working on a couple of possible scenarios: Full camp, modified camp, or camps not being able to take place. The Rec team has been producing virtual programs, Toddler Time with Miss Erica, Whiffle Ball instruction, ZooWorld. They continue to seek ways to keep the community engaged.

VII. Old Business

Athletes Safety: There is still more research to do. The board will continue this conversations at a later date.

VIII. New Business

COVID-19: The board had a discussion. Alex shared information about what the department has done to date to address this issue and to keep the public safe. As well as sharing information about what his colleagues are doing around the state and the country. He had a ZOOM meeting with many local, state and national leaders today.

Next meeting: May 13, 2020

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 8:01pm

1st Jeanne Crowley 2nd Deborah Coklin – Passed 5-0

Submitted by: Dale B Izzo