

**Beach and Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022

**Meeting Place:** Zoom

**Members Present:** Robert Card, Mary Patricia Nardino, Pamela Greene and Vince Dussich.

**Members not Present:** Shane Kokoruda.

**Others Present:** Austin Hall (Beach & Rec Director) and Joseph Oslander Rockland Committee).

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Rob Card at 7:02pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:** The December 7, 2021 minutes were approved. Pam approved and Vince seconded. Three members approved and Rob could not approve because he was not at the meeting in December.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Chair's Comments:** Rob mentioned highlighting the survey that was done and going over the results. The age and demographics of the participants were discussed. 53% of those who participated in the study were between the ages of 40-59. 51% included ages 40-59 and 60-70. 54% of participants lived in Madison between 5 and 30 years. 19% of the participants lived in Madison between 21 and 30 years. Members of household was another question. 36% of homes having 4-5 members per household living there. 41% of homes only had 2 members per household living there. Facilities used most often were the Surf Club with 86% usage, East Wharf with 54% usage, West Wharf with 36% usage and Bauer Park with 27% usage. How often were the facilities used? 18% answered they used the facilities daily. 60% answered weekly. How often do you use programs managed by the Beach and Rec department? 1-2 times per year was 23%. 1-5 times per year was 50%. It seems like most people were more pleased with how the department ran things this time around compared to last year.

**Election of Officers:** Pam nominated Rob to Chair of Beach and Rec Commission and Vince seconded. Everyone present except Rob was in favor. Vince nominated Mary Pat for Vice Chair of the Beach & Rec Commission and Rob seconded. Everyone present except Mary Pat was in favor.

**Old Business- Sailing Program Update:** The sailing program was discussed. The program is still being looked into as it would be a great opportunity for young sailors. It was suggested that the boats be turned over to the correct people to be winterized. There are 9 sail boats and 9 catamarans. The town was gifted 2 more sail boats. The only thing stopping the program from running is finding someone qualified to run the program.

**New Business:** None.

**Director's Report- Department Updates:** Austin discussed the news letter that the department has been sending out. He mentioned that it has been a great way to communicate to the public on an as needed basis. He talked about the distribution of the at home COVID-19 test kits. He mentioned that programs are running as normal right now. A mask is still required for all programs no matter the status of vaccination. Open gym has returned.

**Incidents:** There are no incidents to report on.

**Project Updates:** The pavilion at Salt Meadow is under construction. The foundation was poured and all of the footings are in. The grounds guys are rebuilding and fixing the gate guards at East Wharf and West Wharf and making them look nice. They are also redoing the East Wharf Gazebo. He is still waiting on the kick off for the instruction of the Bauer Park walkway. They are waiting on the contractor to get started on that project.

**Academy School Update:** The last information session about the school report will take place tomorrow Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7pm on Zoom.

**Review Survey Results:** Austin mentioned that Rob, Mary Pat and himself will get together to go over the survey results from 2021 and compare it to 2020. After that happens he will share the findings with the staff. He mentioned things in the survey that the public wants to see improved and that the department will make sure to plan for improving certain things based on the results of the survey. The communication aspect of the commission was discussed and how they can get out more information to the public. The customer service responses on the survey was discussed. Improving the search function on the website and responding in a timely manner to emails was discussed. The bathrooms in the facilities and how to update them was discussed. The garbage cans at the Surf Club was discussed. Littering was discussed and how to make that less of an issue. Suggested programs were discussed based on what people said as comments in the survey. Baking classes and ceramics were just a few of the suggestions. Having more room for these types of programs would be ideal, but it is not possible given the space provided as of right now. Some suggestions were to use Academy School for these types of programs.

Joe mentioned that this is usually the quiet time of year based on the weather and not much is happening at Rockland Park. The 18-mile trail and the trail maps were discussed. The camp grounds on the trails were discussed. The clearing of the trails was discussed.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 8:02pm. Vince motioned and Pam seconded. Everyone present was in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristen Panzo