

**Claremont Parks & Recreation Commission  
Minutes of the January 13, 2020, meeting**

**Present:** Jeffrey Coburn, Leonard Boulanger, Jim Feleen, Melissa Richmond, Sheila Rook, Rob Walker, Eric Zengota

**Absent:** Jeffrey Chase, Robert Pickul

**Staff:** Mark Brislin, Director, Parks & Recreation

**Quorum and Call to Order**

A quorum was met and the meeting was called to order at 6pm.

**Approval of Minutes of the Dec. 16, 2019, meeting**

Motion to Approve: Leonard Boulanger. Second: Rob Walker. Vote: unanimous.

**Director's Report**

The report for December 2019 is attached.

**First Night**

Evening was a success. More than 300 buttons were pre-sold at the CSBCC. Attendance at CSBCC more than 500. Long lines at Arrowhead meant a 45-minute wait to go tubing. Other venues reported packed houses.

**Youth Basketball**

There are 175 K-5 kids signed up for winter play. Players in grades 3-5 are on travel teams that play around the region.

**Pick-Up Basketball**

The new Friday lunch-time adult pick-up basketball program has quickly attracted many players.

**Aqua Polo**

New "league" of aqua polo (like water polo but using all pool depths to accommodate all heights) begins Jan. 21. This is a free to members/day pass activity.

**Gymnasium Lights**

A power surge recently knocked out a bank of lights in the gymnasium. Repair is scheduled for week of Jan. 13-17. Gym activities are not affected.

**Winter School Activities**

Elementary school students from Claremont, Newport, Cornish and Croydon are using the CSBCC for four weeks as part of a school winter activities program, which began Jan. 7. Other local venues for Claremont students only (on Wednesdays) include Arrowhead Recreation Area and Claremont MakerSpace.

**Year in Review**

City Council has asked for a year-in-review report from all departments. Mr. Brislin presented his draft version to the commissioners, who suggested additional material. He will deliver the report on Jan. 15.

## **2020 Holiday Schedule / Hours of Operation**

Mr. Brislin presented the 2020 schedule of holidays, noting each day's hours of operation. At the February meeting, commissioners will discuss extending the hours of the CSBCC's hours in general, including opening one-half hour earlier.

## **Claremont Farmers Market**

The market is likely to receive a \$5,000 grant, which would be used for POP and entertainment. Vital Communities is also funding a portion of POP. At the February meeting, the commissioners will get an updated report on the number of full-time vendors who have committed to the 2020 season.

## **Rail Trail Update**

Mr. Brislin reiterated the news that the grant for work on the Washington Avenue section of the trail was approved; federal funds total \$23,150, and the City's match is \$5,787. Work is expected to start in spring or early summer.

The commissioners reviewed detailed maps of the portion affected by commercial-business encroachments and proposed several solutions for providing a commercial right-of-way that would not alter or affect the trail boundaries. Fencing is a related proposal to keep commercial traffic off the trail to the extent possible.

Mr. Brislin will invite Victor St.Pierre, director of public works, to the February meeting for a detailed study of the area in question.

He will also invite the Shugah Valley Snow Riders to discuss a possible contribution toward the work.

Mr. Walker serves on the Love Sullivan County committee, which is funded by the University of New Hampshire. At the next meeting (Jan. 22), he will again address the committee on the benefits of the rail trail to Claremont and why the City should receive funds for its development as a "crown jewel" and as an attraction to out-of-towners.

## **Other Business**

Mr. Boulanger noted a tradition in other towns of having a bonfire around Jan. 6/ Twelfth Night. He floated the idea of one in Claremont to give residents a place to haul in holiday evergreens.

Mr. Brislin noted that the City is developing a new website that might go live in five or six months. Mr. Zengota said he would provide as many of the photos of Parks + Rec activities that he has taken that the City could use.

Mr. Coburn noted that parking is still a problem.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Leonard Boulanger. Second: Rob Walker. Vote: unanimous.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Next meeting: Feb. 10, 2020