

Marshfield Recreation Department
900 Ferry Street
Recreation Commission Meeting
March 31.2021, Meeting Called to Order 6:03

Marshfield Recreation Commission Meeting attendees:

Gary Pina, Brian Robinson, Denis Kelleher, Brendan Wills, Brian Spano,
Craig Jameson, Director Marshfield Recreation, Nancy Bowers, Administrative Assistant Marshfield Recreation

Guests: Paula Broome, Paul Nihill represent Pickleball Group

Craig Alvey representing Friends of Peter Igo Park

Mark Free representing the Marshfield Boys and Girls Club

Gary Pina asked if everyone saw the meeting minutes for February Commission Meeting
Everyone agree. Denis Kelleher made the motion to accept the minutes and Brian Robinson 2nd it.
Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report: Craig spoke about the Peter Igo Park Pickleball Junior Courts. We are working with Town Counsel and the Town Administrator. Town Counsel said, "The Junior Courts are too short, the end lines to the fencing to play pickleball. Minimum dimensions 20' Wide X 44' Long. PIP courts are 36' Long."

We need 8' end line and there is only 6'. Town Counsel received information regarding a Connecticut court case about an indoor facility that was not 8' with a cement wall and a person broke his neck hitting the wall.

The outcome is that Town Counsel says the Recreation Department cannot program pickleball at the junior courts at PIP. This affects the programs that people have registered for already. We can paint lines at the High School Tennis Courts then at PIP. This will take time as to companies are not returning quotes because their companies are too busy and this is not a big job for them. The actual painting will be delayed as well. The DPW has said that they can resurface and put 2 pickleball courts at Tower Ave.

Paul Nihill said, "What's to say that the dimensions are not correct on any of the other places that sports are played. He said we are opening up a can of worms."

Gary asked, "Will this put a hold on the new project?" Will this not allow programs in the schools in the fall? He agrees that this will open a can worms. Painting the lines on the tennis courts is a lot of money. He said it would be about \$3,000 a court.

Paul Nihill stated that Tennis Regulations are higher than pickleball.

Gary asked "If people could play on junior courts on their own, what would be the outcome?" Craig said he will check that out. He suggests that we put up signs "Play at Your Own Risk".

Paula Broome asked, "What is going to happen to the program that people have already signed up for?" She state that the pickleball players are very conscious of people who want to play on the junior courts and will stop and let them play. Tennis is becoming more popular now and pickleball players will have a hard time playing on the tennis courts. She said, "The pickleball players do not want this to become a competition between the pickleball community and the tennis community." She thought that the bids for the multiuse courts did not go out to bid.

Craig told her they have already and we received 2 bids that were over budget. Craig said that for now we would have to tape the tennis court every day we have a program then take the tape up.

Gary said that there is blended blue lines on the tennis courts at PIP so all we would have to tape is the kitchen on both sides.

Craig went on with his report stating we received 2 bids for the multiuse courts at the Boys and Girls Club. A-Bids are including the lights and B-Bids are with not lights. CPC and Town Meeting gave us \$185,000. We have already spent a portion of that on our engineer Pat Brennen. The bids are much

higher because the companies are so busy at this time. This project is also not expected to be completed until September.

Paula Broome asked, "If we could go to Town Meeting and ask for \$10,000 to make up the difference." Craig said, "We would have to ask the CPC for the additional amount for the lights."

Gary asked that we reach out to the engineer to make sure all of the sports that are supposedly able to play have the correct distance for all the sports.

Paul Nihill wanted to know if Town Counsel has a concern and is there any substance behind his ruling on the junior courts. There is a lot of gray area. This is a Connecticut case not Massachusetts.

Gary said he went and spoke to Judge and there was nothing in Massachusetts.

Craig continued his report on the field/court usage. There have been many requests and that the Athletic Director has access to our new registration website, MyRec and has put in the High School Schedule. This system is working great. Craig approves all other sports groups.

Parks and Playgrounds. We still have a Recreation employee sanitizing the playgrounds. We are also talking to National Fitness Campaign regarding a proposed grant for exercise equipment. Nancy Bowers stated that we would need 38' X38' space. The project is \$100,000 - \$140,000 to complete. With the help of DPW this amount would be less. The company does research in the town where would be the best location for this but has state that Coast Guard Hill is a good possibility. There is an app you can get on your phone for different programs you can do on this equipment. She mentioned that this project would not happen until next year or the year after if it is something we wanted to pursue. Nancy asked Denis Kelleher if this would be something that CPC would be interested in funding. Denis said CPC considerations are once a year and that that fits under the recreation portion of funding.

Craig continued that there is an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 2, 10:00am at Coast Guard Hill. We will be taking everyone's information for contact tracing and there will be Polaroid pictures with the Easter Bunny for \$5.00.

Craig showed everyone the new registration website we have and all of the programs from our brochure.

Craig asked for the Commissions help on Sunday Mornings with Basketball setup for youth basketball starting April 11th, you will use a ladder and hoop attachments 8am and 4pm.

Brian Spano asked, "Can Heather find assistance with setup?" Craig said he would find out.

Craig stated that we are trying to have 3 or 4 concerts at either the Town Green or Coast Guard Hill.

Craig has asked the Commission to go to Town Meeting and vote for the funding from CPC for the playground at Coast Guard Hill.

Gary said, "Before Covid-19 that the Commission members were going to each take a park and do inspections once a week."

Gary said he would do Coast Guard Hill

Denis Kelleher said he would take Tower Ave and Peter Igo Park.

There is still FB Street Hockey and Basketball Courts, Singer Park in North Marshfield, Uncle Buds Skate Park.

Brian Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dennis Kelleher 2nd it, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:08pm