

**CITY OF ELLSWORTH
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm
ZOOM MEETING**

In accordance with *An Act To Implement Provisions Necessary to the Health, Welfare and Safety of the Citizens of Maine in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*, Sec G-1 1 MRSA §403-A Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of State of Emergency due to COVID-19, the **Wednesday, March 17th Recreation Commission meeting** was held through a **ZOOM Meeting**, to begin at **6:00 PM**.

1. Roll Call of members present

Members present: April Clifford, Josh Frost, Shane Lowell, Nick Turner, Dale Hamilton (Council Liaison)

Members absent: Chair Nick Sarro, Courtney Bunker, Benton Bird, Lillian Frank, Amy Phillips

Staff present: City Planner Elena Piekut (Staff Liaison), HR/Payroll Assistant Toni Dyer (outgoing Staff Liaison)

Nick Turner agreed to serve as chair of the meeting.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

3. Adoption of Minutes 1/27/2021

There were no meeting minutes from February as there was no quorum at the scheduled meeting. Josh Frost moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting as written. April Clifford seconded. Vote: U/A.

4. Youth Sports update & Ice Rink update - Shane Lowell

Shane Lowell reported that Ellsworth is represented in every division of championship basketball, spring programming is beginning in early April, and the ice rink at Knowlton Park is now in rough shape but was used more than ever this winter. April Clifford asked for a Little League update at the next meeting and Shane Lowell agreed to invite them to provide an update. At April's request Shane also provided an update on upcoming sports camps. April Clifford said that her organization is providing extended school year programming.

5. Commission comments

Nick Turner brought up the budget process and presentations. Toni Dyer said the Recreation Commission would likely be asked to present in April, possible May. Nick reported that The Grand will be requesting funds for waterfront concerts as well as a new request for Shakespeare in the Park.

City Planner Elena Piekut said that the City Clerk had asked for a letter from the Chair removing student members Lillian Frank and Benton Bird, as well as Amy Phillips who has moved out of the City. The Clerk also noted that Recreation Commission terms should be more staggered to prevent multiple vacancies at once. Discussion ensued regarding options for restructuring membership through amending Chapter 31 of the City Code, the need to review the Commissions duties and scope, and its relationship to Maine's 10-year Economic Development Strategy.

Josh Frost asked for an update on discussions around providing winter maintenance of the rail-trail. Councilor Dale Hamilton said that it has been discussed and would require a budget but needs to be addressed as part of a conversation about priorities for use of the trail. Nick Turner said he would have some feedback about the needs of the community.

Josh Frost asked about the best way to propose a volleyball court, possibly a sand court in the same location as the winter ice rink. Councilor Hamilton noted this would be best addressed through a comprehensive strategic planning effort to identify existing resources and prioritize recreation needs throughout the City. Further discussion ensued regarding the budget process, community requests and reports, and staff oversight of facility maintenance. Councilor Hamilton and HR/Payroll Assistant Dyer recommending reviewing these needs with Public Works Director Lisa Sekulich. City Planner Piekut will catch up with Chair Nick Sarro as well as City staff regarding the budget process, Recreation Commission duties, and a potential future meeting with Director Sekulich.

6. Adjournment.

Josh Frost moved to adjourn at 6:59 pm. April Clifford seconded. Vote: U/A.