

**CITY OF ELLSWORTH  
RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, April 21, 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, as enacted to read: Sec G-1 1 MRSA §403-A Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of State of Emergency due to COVID-19, the **Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Recreation Commission meeting** was held through a **ZOOM Meeting**.

**1. Roll Call of Members Present**

**Members present:** Chair Nick Sarro, Courtney Bunker, Josh Frost, Shane Lowell, Nick Turner, Robert Miller (Council Liaison)

**Members absent:** April Clifford, Dale Hamilton (Council Liaison)

**Staff present:** City Planner Elena Piekut (Staff Liaison)

**2. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

**3. Adoption of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Josh Frost moved to approve the minutes of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as written. Nick Turner seconded.

Vote: U/A.

**4. Commission Membership**

**a. Resignation – Shane Lowell (Regular Member)**

**Motion:** Nick Turner moved to accept the resignation of Shane Lowell. Josh Frost seconded. Vote: U/A.

**b. Letter of Interest – Daron Goldstein (Regular Member)**

**Motion:** Nick Turner moved to recommend that the City Council appoint Daron Goldstein as a regular member. Josh Frost seconded. Vote: U/A.

## 5. Youth Sports Update – Members

## 6. Recreation Facilities/Programs Update – Members

Where Shane Lowell was in attendance, he provided an update on registrations for spring sports and members briefly discussed programs and spring cleanups.

## 7. FY2022 Budget Review – Elena Piekut

City Planner Elena Piekut led a discussion about the Recreation Commission budget as proposed and the process by which it will be reviewed and approved by the City Council. Members clarified how some line items have changed over the years and in light of the pandemic and Elena shared that items such as The Grand's summer concerts and Shakespeare in the Park may not be funded in the FY 2022 budget as the City doesn't intend to staff public gatherings. Discussion ensued as to whether this policy would affect the Concert Band. The group also discussed eliminating or reallocating the "Recreational Activities" line as a lack of cold winter weather has cancelled the Winter Carnival several times in recent years, but decided not to propose a change at this time. Councilor Robert Miller raised the question of plans for a Memorial Day Parade and Chair Nick Sarro agreed to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to learn how it is organized.

**Motion:** Josh Frost made a motion to recommend the Recreation Commission budget to the City Council as proposed by the City Manager. Nick Turner seconded. Vote: U/A.

## 8. Commission Comments

The Commission discussed complaints from Toni Buzzard regarding the basketball courts on Forrest Avenue that abut her home on Holt Drive. A member explained that the reason there are sound curtains on only one of the two courts is because Ms. Buzzard objected to the sound curtains abutting her home because they blocked her view of the courts. The group found a consensus that existing regulations and signage at the court are sufficient and that the additional sound curtains, which the City already owns, could be installed to mitigate noise concerns. **Motion:** Nick Turner moved to recommend the City Council and/or City staff consider installing the additional sound curtains. Courtney Bunker seconded. Vote: U/A.

## 9. Adjournment

**Motion:** Nick Turner moved to adjourn at 7:05 pm. Josh Frost seconded. Vote: U/A.