

MINUTES



Griswold Recreation Commission
Monday, February 22, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
Held on Google Meet

Mike Morton – Recording Secretary
Ryan Aubin – Director

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
 - In Attendance - Carol Mauro, Darren Drobiak, Ryan Snide, Sarah Seifert, Jay Rainier
 - Absent - Ricky Bevis, Lionel Lasalle, Ken Willey, Mike Minarsky
 - Guests – Todd Babbitt, Mario Tristany Jr., Tim Sharkey, John Faulise
2. Approval of Minutes
 - November Minutes
 - Motion for Approval: S. Seifert, Seconded: J. Rainier
3. New Business
4. Old Business
 - Basketball Court Discussion
 - J. Faulise explained that the Recreation Commission asked for his help to create a plan for a basketball court, explained locations discussed. Last meeting, the Commission was looking to explore a court overlooking the waterfall at the Youth Center. J. Faulise explained that the land is mostly owned by the State DEEP. We would have to look elsewhere.
 - Much discussion on other possible locations including in Veterans Memorial Park or removing the skate park to replace with a full court. Commission settled on exploring the most reasonable, easier to do plan of extending the current half court & creating a full court with new parking plan for the JCLL Complex.
 - J. Faulise explained the process of creating a public park. Create a schematic plan, P&Z 8-24 review, funding then build specific plan.
 - Commission tabled “Basketball Court Discussion” until we can explore the option more with J. Faulise of Boundaries, LLC of Griswold.

- Adaptive Playground Discussion
 - S. Seifert explained the regional need for a playground created to support those with special needs and limited mobility in our portion of Connecticut. Her families drive over an hour, along with many other families from our community all the way up to Norwich, who has a huge Special Education needs.
 - J. Faulise mentioned that maybe Hopeville would be a great location for this type of regional destination. R. Aubin stated he would reach out to DEEP.
 - Discussion regarding grants and funding options, including Small Cities grants which have to affect low-income census areas of the community. Possible source of funding if grant is approved due to its similarity to elderly client. M. Tristany Jr. explained he is waiting to hear back from the consultant. Possible funding from STEAP through the Borough, but T. Sharkey explained that currently there is no funding for the STEAP grant. J. Faulise asked if there is any funding in the Open Space fund, T. Babbitt mentioned yes, but not enough to do a project like this.
 - Discussion regarding parking extension, leveling, grading and site development at Veterans Memorial Park were discussed, cost would be 100-200k or more plus the playground.

5. Public Comment

- None

6. Any Other Business

- C. Mauro asked about our Park&Rec / Youth&Family Facebook page and current programming. R. Aubin explained how both the work page and his personal page have well over 4k followers. R. Aubin explained how The Day Community Newspaper covered our department and how busy we are especially during the pandemic. ([See article here](#)) He explained how much support the community gives us.

7. Adjournment

- 6:27 pm Motion by: S.Seifert Seconded by: R. Snide