

Parks and Recreation Commission July 8, 2021

Minutes for the meeting on July 8, 2021. The meeting took place remotely via Zoom with members, Thomas Desmond, Merrill McCluskey, Michael Cozort and Andrew Cromartie present with attendance by roll call. Jack Gardner joined at 4:17 PM.

Chair Thomas Desmond called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Chair Desmond welcomed newly appointed members Andrew Cromartie and Merrill McCluskey. Chair Desmond asked Mr. Cromartie his interest in applying to Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Cromartie previously filmed meetings for NCTV and is interested in what is going on in the community and the opportunity presented itself. Ms. McCluskey stated she was asked by a friend to apply and the new initiatives sounded exciting and maybe add a fresh take on funding and those ideas coming to life.

Officer Jerry Mack answered questions from Chair Desmond. Chair Desmond stated a positive relationship with the police department is imperative with such substantial financial commitment to the parks. Chair Desmond would like a drive through by patrol cars at parks while events are underway. Officer Mack is the downtown neighborhood foot patrol presence and sees issues at Children's Beach with vandalism and graffiti by kids. Street lights are not working and gives hundreds of kids an opportunity to hide, make a mess, start a fire on the beach or destroy property. Children's Beach Concessionaire Rebecca Chapa installed five cameras to monitor ongoing activity in the area, signs are being torn down and umbrellas damaged. The Commission, Officer Mack and Ms. Chapa discussed ongoing issues and potential deterrents for the safety of all beachgoers.

Jack Gardner joined the meeting at 4:35 PM.

Brooke Mohr requested volunteers for Nantucket Island Fair at Tom Nevers Field, scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd, 2021. Parking revenue generates funding for the upcoming year which is largely staffed by a high school sport team or other non-profit entity. Ms. Mohr asked who will be responsible in 2022 for overseeing the fair with an active Parks and Recreation Commission. Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson explained Parks and Rec is currently responsible for any activities at Tom Nevers and the development of a Parks and Recreation Director or Department, are potential future projects.

Visitor Services Coordinator David Sharpe updated the commission with concerts on July 3, 2021 in place of fireworks. Due to inclement weather, concerts were rescheduled to Monday with great attendance, sound provided by Bobby Lamb.

Chair Tom Desmond thanked DPW for improvements at Tom Nevers fields in time for softball season and requested understanding while DPW works through staffing issues. Deputy Director of Department of Public Works (DPW) Stephen Arceneaux acknowledged staffing struggles and appreciates the public's patience and cooperation.

Jack Gardner moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 PM; seconded by Michael Cozort. All in favor, so voted.