

Monkton Recreation Committee
Monday, April 4, 2022
7:00 to 8:00 PM
Meeting conducted at New Town Hall

Members Present: John Zaikowski, Rick Imes, Adam Crary, Ed Cook, Tim Hunt (via phone)

Other guests: Cathy Buscaglia, Monkton Dog Park Committee

1. Call to Order: Zaikowski called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM

2. Cathy Buscaglia, Monkton Dog Park Committee, advised the dog park is currently muddy, and they will be looking to conduct spring cleanup once conditions dry out. The shade structure, previously approved as part of a local scout service project, is tentatively scheduled to start in June. The Dog Park Committee has been given permission to use the old bathroom space next to the Morse Park storage shed as storage for their equipment. They are beginning to clean it out and use it. They are also planning a 1-year anniversary celebrating its opening for early to mid-June, and will advise the Rec Committee of the date to ensure no conflicts.

3. Review and approval of March meeting minutes: No changes or modifications to the minutes. **Zaikowski made a motion to approve the minutes. Cook seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0).**

4. Baseball: budget review: Crary provided an anticipated cost breakdown of expenses for teams, field use, and field maintenance/upkeep, which totalled \$2,975.00. Anticipated costs increased due to the need to allocate resources to the MCS ball field. Other cost breakdowns for facility operations, grounds maintenance, repairs to existing structures, and upgrades were not included with this request. **Zaikowski made a motion to approve the proposed budget of \$2,975.00 to support the baseball/softball programs. Cook seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0).**

5. Rec Field brush removal plan update: Chad Wright has been working on removing overgrown brush and sumac from the outfield fence areas, and grading. He will need to go back in to finish, clean up, rake, and seed. The long term plan is once these areas are graded and seeded, they would be regularly mowed with the rest of the field to limit sumac/brush encroachment. Outfield fencing will be installed after grass has established and is in regular mowing rotation.
6. MCS ballfield update: Crary provided an update. We are still waiting on MAUSD, which has been delayed in completing work due to staffing/labor shortages, and wet field conditions. The Committee would like to be able to finish the work this spring, which includes team benches and providing field material once field conditions dry out. MAUSD also has a sod cutter which we can borrow. Crary is also looking to line up help with installing a small curtain drain behind the new backstop. Crary will reach out to MAUSD again.
7. Spring facilities planning: mowing, brush hogging, utilities: Mowing and brush hogging is set through Brian Barrows. The Committee may want to have Brian brush hog some additional areas in the MCS ballfield's outfield areas. Questions came up about portalet rentals and electricity at the pavilions, which Low typically coordinates. The Committee will follow up with Low on those issues.
8. Charlie Huizenga update: After many years of service, Charlie has decided not to seek another term on the Recreation Committee. His tireless efforts, dedication to the community, and spirit serve as an example to the Committee and the community at large. The Committee will explore ways to honor him and other members who have dedicated many years of service.
9. Brainstorm community engagement and ARPA fund idea: the Committee discussed the possibility of fitness stations and/or an adult playground at Morse Park. These installations could start small, and be expanded later. Funding sources will need to be explored further, as well as anticipated costs of these projects.

10. Other: Addison United has approached the Committee about using the Morse Park fields for this upcoming spring soccer season. Hunt left the meeting for this discussion. All members present agreed this is desirable to explore. Zaikowski will respond back to open a dialogue.

11. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Zaikowski