

## SOUTHBRIDGE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2018

Attendance: Steve Roenfeldt, {Director of Recreation}, Pedro Aponte, Aaron Roso

Meeting opened at 7:21 PM

Reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting.

### Events Updates:

- May is Bicycle Month Events: Dates were discussed regarding the bicycle month events. Mr. Roenfeldt described the events in the past including a bicycle maintenance class at the library, a bicycle safety fair last year at Joe Capillo Park, and a Bicycle to Work Day appreciation breakfast on the common. It was advised by all attendees that the programs should continue and volunteers were possible, which was a concern of Mr. Roenfeldt in the events of the past. The following dates for the events were determined
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> Bicycle Maintenance Clinic to be held in front of the library to highlight and demonstrate the Fixit station and bicycle racks
  - May 12<sup>th</sup>: Bicycle Safety Day at Joe Capillo Park
  - May 18<sup>th</sup>: Bike to Work or School “Try it” Day. This year will not include an appreciation station, but encouraging citizens to post pictures of them riding to work on Recreation Facebook page.

### Programs Updates:

- Pedro Aponte and Steve discussed the ALL IN recreation/leadership afterschool program at West St School. In partnership with the School Dept, Our Bright Future, Inc, YMCA, You, Inc and New Hope, we are providing an afterschool program 5 days a week from 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm. Pedro reported that the school department community engagement director expressed concerns about the program not meeting expectations, especially on Recreation’s Tues/Thurs. Pedro reported that he did not know where this is coming from because from his perspective of being there on all 5 days most weeks, that the Tues/Thurs seemed to be the run just as well, if not better than the other days. It was discussed that we should end the Friday portion of the program due to a drop off in attendance and utilize those volunteers for the rest of the week. A meeting needs to be scheduled with the program partners to discuss next steps and next year changes. Steve suggested perhaps the Recreation Dept pull from the program and develop an independent program that is more in line with Mr. Aponte’s original idea of an expanded teen leaders program. Mr. Aponte, reported that he will be speaking with Mr. Snider, the high school staff advisor of the ASPIRA group to get more volunteers.
- Winter Playground Group at Community Center is going well with attendance consistently more than 10. The next and last group will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. A large group is anticipated as HeadStart program will be bringing a group of young people.
- Flag Football League: No report from Brian Figueroa. Steve mentioned that Brian has suggested a possible youth flag football program if there in an interest. Pedro said that he would be

interested in helping with the program as he coaches Pop Warner and has in the past did summer skills practice with his child's friends during the summer

- Summer Concert on the Common: Funds are coming in. We have the funds to make the 10 concerts happen. We also have a verbal commitment to host 2 movie nights in September. More discussion to follow. The concerts are slated to begin on June 25<sup>th</sup> and go through Aug 25<sup>th</sup>. With 2 movies of the first and second Fridays of September.
- BMX Skills Program: Steve reported that he has promotional materials ready for the programs for June and August. He is waiting on approval of the funds transfer to hire the staff. Aaron Roso reported that he has a interested councilor for the program and he would be the program director.
- Tennis Program: Steve reported that a volunteer, Mari Ruggeri will again be hosting a Free Tennis program. It will be at West St tennis courts, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. Steve encouraged everyone to help promote the program
- Summer Program at West St: The registrations and promotions are available now. Steve encouraged all members to help promote. Pedro will deliver applications to West St, Steve will deliver applications to Eastford Rd and Charlton St.

#### Facilities:

- Park need suggestions - None discussed
- Volunteer Days & Beautify Southbridge: Steve informed the group about the upcoming Beautify Southbridge on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 – 12:30. Adopter groups will be reminded of the day. Aaron asked if we could paint the skatepark on that day, although he would not be available to lead the effort. He will post on Facebook to see if there is any interest in help with that project. He also asked if a crew could clean up the area around the Joe Capillo sign to prep for flower bed. Steve said that he could mention those, but the focus of beautify Southbridge is litter pick up.

#### Open Forum

None discussed at this time

The next meeting is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 7:15 pm at the Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut St.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm