

Open Space and Recreation  
Thursday, March 23, 2023  
Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 6:07pm

Members present: Connie Afshar, Adam Norman, Alix White, Marisa Manley, Deidre Riley  
Additional Attendees: Sarah Crossen, Caitlin Campbell, Annette Sawchuck

Connie Afshar, co-chair, asked for comments on the minutes from the February 28th meeting. There were no edits recommended Connie Afshar, co-chair moved to approve the minutes. Adam Norman seconded. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **Improvements at Beechwood Playground**

Sarah Crossen gave a brief background on the beechwood playground. Sarah Crossen and Caitlin Campbell had brought safety concerns to the town such as rusted equipment on the side of the playground, there is no maintenance or grooming of the grounds, the benches are unusable and the gates are not secured. The request for repairs has not been followed through with the town. Sarah Crossen has put together both a fundraising plan and a design plan for the new playground.

The playground is not ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant and the surface of the playground is not safe and would not protect a child from injury. The playground is past regulation and could be brought up to code with \$130K of repairs or could be completely replaced for \$250K. It would not be a worthwhile investment for equipment that is 30 years old to go the route of repairs.

Sarah Crossen and Caitlin Campbell met with CPC (Community Preservation Committee) in the fall and want funding from the town meeting. They are asking that the town fund 70% of the playground and they have secured funding for the remaining 30%.

Alix White asked about long term maintenance for the playground. Sarah Crossen mentioned that there are some neighborhood volunteers, who can keep up with the landscaping and basic maintenance.

It was decided that the Open Spaces and Recreation Committee fully endorses this project.

#### **Planning Earth Day Clean-up event on Saturday, April 22, 2023**

Adam Norman, co-chair, is still tracking down the application with Michelle Leary

Connie Afshar, co-chair, pointed out that graham waste may offer the dumpster for free, but we need to make sure that they will pick the dumpster up for free too.

Dee Riley mentioned that Lisey Good wanted to have a table at the town cleanup this year and wanted to make sure that the committee was alright with that. Connie Afshar, co-chair mentioned that a few other committees might like to have tables at the cleanup as well.

Connie Afshar, co-chair, mentioned that Peter dropped off the canvas bags left over from last year. Alix White, who is an artist, is going to see if she can repurpose them since they say 2022. Connie Afshar, co-chair, also received 10 grabbers from last year as well and those are generally given to the groups that work in the wetlands.

Montanna Cassel, offered to promote the town cleanup on Sunday at the Deer Hill recreation fair. In addition there are some lists in town through the library, willcutt commons and others that will also help get the word out.

Marisa Manley asked the committee if we wanted to do a BINGO game this year for eco activities or solicit prizes from local businesses for the cleanup.

Marisa Manley and Deidre Riley will manage fundraising and the games for the town cleanup. Connie Afshar will take the public relations task to submit the flyer for printing..

### **Guest speaker: Annette Sawchuck, President of the Sandy Beach Association**

Connie Afshar, co-chair, asked Annette Sawchuck to present to the committee on why recycling at Sandy Beach hasn't worked in the past. Annette Sawchuck mentioned that they tried recycling for two seasons at Sandy beach, and it didn't work because inevitably the recycling was contaminated due to mis-use by patrons.

The Sandy Beach Association started with just bottles and cans, but the cans always became contaminated. They have tried more frequent trash pickup to help alleviate the trash overflow, but that still didn't prevent patrons from throwing things in the wrong bins.

The association also tried to entertain an eagle scout project to collect pizza boxes, but those bins filled up too fast and the boxes ended up creating more trash overflow. As a result, the association has promoted carry in and carry out for the past few years. They also deliver stickers to local pizza establishments so that the pizza establishments can put the customer name and number on the box, such that if they leave the box behind at the beach the association will call them to collect their boxes

Deidre Riley mentioned that she had tried to inquire with the town on recycling at the playing fields and was met with resistance due to both budget and contamination concerns. Marisa Manley brought up the discussion of having the boy scouts man a table for recyclables as a fundraiser, and Annette Sawchuck said she would bring that up to the board for consideration. Deidre Riley will reach out to Vince Thorton to see if the boy scouts would be interested and

Deidre Riley will also reach out to Montanna Cassel to see if she has any ideas for more recycling at Sandy Beach.

Connie Afshar, co-chair, mentioned that there was a fill-a-bucket station that was in place by Sarah Burgess and Annette Sawchuck confirmed that it is still there, but she is not sure who maintains it still. In the summer there are BMWs that clean the beach daily, so the buckets are ideal from fall to springtime.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marisa Manley