

Park and Recreation Commission	Meeting Minutes
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Date: March 24, 2021

Place: Zoom Webinar

Commissioners Attending: Nancy O'Connor, Clara Batchelor, Wendy Sheridan, Dan Lyons and Jim Carroll

Commissioners Absent: John Bain and Antonia Bellalta

Staff: Leigh Jackson: Recreation Director, Alex Cassie, Code Enforcement, Jamie Sabbach and Gerry Kelly, Jon Vanscoyoc, Select Person

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
<p>Welcome/ Call the Meeting to Order</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Sabbach, Farrell and the Members of the Park and Recreation Commission introduced themselves. 	
<p>Phase 4- Smart Approach to Cost Recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Sabbach stated that there will be 65-70 minutes spent setting the stage for cost recovery strategy and dig into what process really looks like. She presented the Smart Approach to Cost Recovery slide show. Please see attached presentation. A hand out was given to the Commissioners. It is a list of the service categories that represent both Recreation and Parks and Open Space. That handout will help complete the Beneficiary of Service Exercise. The Beneficiary of Service allows alignment and connective tissue between the categories of services offered through the organization and who it is that benefits in the community. She asked the Commission to align the categories with whether or not the categories provide for community benefit/common good or more individualized/specialized in nature. She stated that ultimately they will take the beneficiary of service model, the results of the cost of service analysis and that will be among the guiding principles used to establish cost recovery goals on behalf of Recreation and Parks and Open Space. W. Sheridan thinks it's a lot at once and she has so much going through her head with not just what is going on today, but how what we do today fits in a bigger picture. She does not want to unintentionally make decisions today without acknowledging how they are fitting 	

	<p>into the big picture and making decision that are unintended. She thinks that its terrific to go through the exercise and finds it critically important to look these service categories and try to rank the beneficiary of service, but really understanding how we got to the service categories to begin with and other financial picture of the department. She stated that Brookline started working with a lot of Partner programs that look like independent businesses that may or not be following our categories. She thinks it's important to be factored in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• J. Sabbach stated that it is one exercise, there are no long term decisions being made. These categories were created by staff, it is always staff driven. She stated that you the Commission are stepping in as representative community members to share your perspectives, representing the broader Brookline Community relative to whether the services provided on behalf of this organization aligned with the common good or more individualized. This process is an ongoing exercise. The will help create the first iteration of the strategy, but the strategy will continue to evolve and grow. This becomes the ends to the means.• N. O'Connor stated that a lot is very familiar because she was here for the last round. She gets the concept/idea, but it seems more daunting to her right now. She feels a little overwhelmed, it does seem much bigger and she is curious where to go. J. Sabbach stated that we are just setting the stage with the whys and what the mythology is, we haven't even gotten to exercise. She is hoping the exercise will challenge everyone and will give everyone an extra 24 hours to provide responses/adjustments to L. Jackson adjustment.• C. Batchelor stated that this is clear to her and she is looking forward to doing the exercise.• The beneficiary of service group exercise was presented to the commission. J. Sabbach walked the commission through the service categories. Please see attachment. There 14 categories provide to recreation and parks and	
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	<p>open space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• C. Batchelor had a question regarding cooking. It is listed as a beginner category but to her would also be considered an educational life skill. L. Jackson stated that it falls into a beginner level course.• W. Sheridan has questions between the beginners introductory / learn to level activities and what was listed as examples in Brookline, and the intermediate/advanced/ competitive level activities. She thinks some are missed misplaced as the examples are written for Brookline specially.• J. Sabbach stated that these are working drafts and she will have the staff to check to make sure they are in the right categories. She would like the Commission to focus on definitions to help determine the ranking. W. Sheridan stated that on focusing on the definition, she thinks there is something missing where you are not a beginner anymore but you are engaging in in an activity, where the primary intent is to not master the skill. W. Sheridan wonders if we are putting partner programs in any of these categories. L. Jackson stated that they will be included.• G. Kelly discussed High school athletics and where the partner programs fall.• J. Carroll stated that in terms of the final analysis it doesn't get very granular when you go through the specific programs. These are not meant to be a stick in the mud, everything will not fall in the cost recovery bubble. He thinks that once you look at it on a granular level you have the more global view then there will be a more detailed discussion and then be able to assign the cost recovery percentage to individual programs. He is not sure if it is beneficial at this level to try and pick out all the different things and move them into categories. L. Jackson wants to support what J. Carroll said and stated that we will have a range of percentages, but it is not this step.• W. Sheridan struggles with lumping Net Results and Viking into rentals, when they don't follow at least to date our ranking of services on our cost recovery model. She	
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	<p>doesn't think you can have two companies that are representing Brookline Recreation Department at a minimum, there are more and more partner programs that are living in their own continuum of priorities and just get lumped in our cost recovery model under rentals. She would like to discuss what our exceptions are from a policy perspective of how our values and rankings of beneficiary services on how it is being applied from partner programs representing the Recreation Department. J. sabbach will happy to talk offline about this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second handout "Beneficiary of service" was shown to the Commission.. J. Sabbach defined common good and individualized benefit. The task is to rank the 14 categories that from the cattery that aligns most with the common good (number 1 placement) to the one most individualized /specialized in nature to number 14 category. The Commission members ranked the below categories from 1-14. <p>Beginner/Introduction/Learn to Level activities Community and educational services Community events Drop-in monitored spaces Food and beverage sales Intermediate/advanced competitive level activities Licensed Programs Merchandise Sales Non-Monitored spaces Non-skill based activities Private/semi-private services Rentals Special events Specialized Business Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Sabbach stated if anyone changes their mind, to please send L. Jackson the responses within 24 hours and she will make adjustments on the end • L. Jackson thanked the Commission. It's a huge important project for Recreation. • J. Sabbach discussed next steps. • The hybrid cost recovery model was discussed. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• L. Jackson stated that there is lots more to come and she will be sharing with the Commission along the way, example fees and policy update.		
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting adjourned.		

Next Meeting: March 25, 2021

Location: Zoom Webinar

A true record

Attest Jessica White

Date: 3.24.21