

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021  
7:00 PM VIA ZOOM WEBINAR**

*Pursuant to Gov. Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 modifying the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, the Recreation Commission, to ensure the safety of all participants, held its meeting remotely via Zoom Webinar. A link and call in information were provided for public access.*

**Members present:** Eric Rosenthal, Trevor MacDonald, Melissa Crocker, Julie Johnstone, Marcy Dorna, Maija Cirilus-Gooch, Adam King

**Town Staff:** Chris Fitzgerald, Sharon Locke, Lauren Smith, Gary Jarobsky

**Guests:** Tom Scarlata (BH+A LLC), Geri Scoll (resident).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Weston Memorial Pool Design – Guest: Tom Scarlata, BH+A Inc.**

Mr. Scarlata discussed overall trends in current pool design and pros and cons for different options on all areas the Recreation Commission has been discussing for Weston Memorial Pool. Full Power Point presentation is available in Attachment 1, highlights are below:

- Zero depth entry
  - Pros – accessibility, possibly spray pad features.
  - Cons - surface area of pool increases and impacts the code, not usable for much beyond splash pad like play.

Memorial Pool already has a ramp for accessibility, there may be an opportunity for improvement.
- Areas for Fitness
  - Pros – popular, growing trend for lap lanes, walking areas, etc.
  - Cons – management issue to keep kids out of such areas.
- Slides
  - Pros – very popular
  - Cons - need additional staffing, increased water turnover, slides are not addressed specifically in state code for pool.
- Spray pad / water table
  - Pros – can segregate from pool for use outside of pool opening, water table can be incorporated for play/learning area. Can also be controlled by demand with

bollards that allows users to turn on for certain periods of time, will remain off when not in use. Minimal if any staffing needed.

- Cons – maintenance, particularly for spray pads using filtered and treated water.

The trend in Massachusetts is to use a “fill and spill” system where potable water is used and drained into storm sewer or French drain. Stagnant water when filtered system is not in use is more likely to become contaminated.

- Larger concessions
  - Pros – Greater appeal for members, potential revenue generator
  - Cons – increased management and maintenance responsibilities (waste management, cleaning).

Some pools are designating eating areas, this may or may not be necessary at Memorial Pool.

- Filters
  - Sand
    - Pros – cheaper to install, easy to maintain, current sand filters are smaller and more flexible than current ones
    - Cons – uses more water to maintain, takes more space than Regenerative filters.
  - Regenerative
    - Pros – space efficient, uses less water for maintenance.
    - Cons – more costly to install, specialized maintenance training needed with outside contractor.

Decision on filter type will come down to maintenance practices that town is comfortable with.

- Bathhouse facilities – Trend to use family changing areas as gender neutral AND Accessible changing/showering/toilet areas.
- Reconfiguring existing pool structure – can build inside current pools and reconfigure for zero-depth entry and/or fitness lanes, but need to be cognizant of gutters and water circulation.

Recreation Commissioners and members of the public asked some basic questions, it was emphasized that this was a preliminary discussion on what’s possible and current trends in the industry. Further discussions with staff and the working group will help direct the process.

### **Pickleball Feasibility**

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the Recreation Master Plan Committee has submitted a request to the Community Preservation Committee for \$20,000 to conduct a feasibility study for pickleball courts. The existing Recreation Master Plan points out three potential locations but think that others may be better. Specifically, Burchard Park and Case Campus will be considered in addition to Melone Field, Burt Field and Ferrelli Field that the RMP suggests. The proposal is

based on a quote from a design company the town is familiar with, the process is waiting on CPC to set their next meeting to discuss with them.

### **Trash at Lamson Park**

Ms. Dorna stated there was concern raised on the Weston Facebook page about trash being left behind at Lamson Park; some members of the public have asked for trash cans. The Recreation Commission discussed the current policy and considerations on whether to change. Arguments against included a question to the effectiveness of adding trash cans, and whether they would attract bees, birds and rodents which was a problem at the playground this one replaced. Ultimately, no change was made to the policy.

The Free Library was also reported to be damaged, Mr. Fitzgerald had already contacted Weston Public Library and their Friends group was arranging for repair.

### **Field Maintenance and youth sport use (Trevor)**

Mr. MacDonald stated a desire to develop a more equitable fee structure for youth sports in town, an issue discussed at Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee and within some of the youth sport groups. Currently, Weston Little League absorbs most maintenance cost for Burchard Park; the other youth sport groups pay varying fees which depends in part on which fields are used. Developing a more equitable system will take time and involve discussions with youth sports, school administration and School Committee among others, but there is an effort underway to start these discussions.

### **Department updates**

The updates in attachment 2 were discussed, main points discussed included:

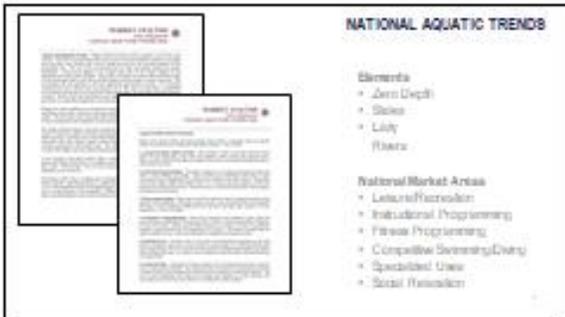
- Red Waves – increased capacity this year compared to last, will conduct in person swim meets, safety details still being developed.
- Ice Skating - back to full capacity, masks required, other safety measures still being discussed.
- Youth programming – primary limitation is bussing capacity, we estimate that we are at 75% capacity. Masking still required indoors.
- Additional adult programming being offered in evenings.

### **Future meetings**

To be determined via doodle poll.

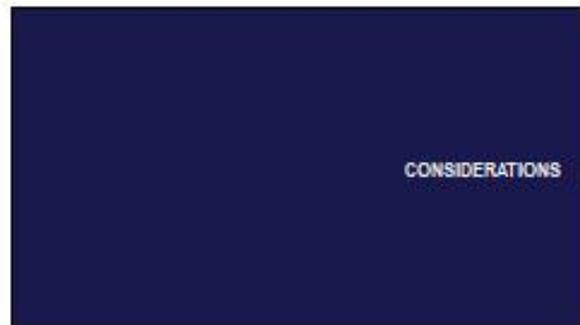
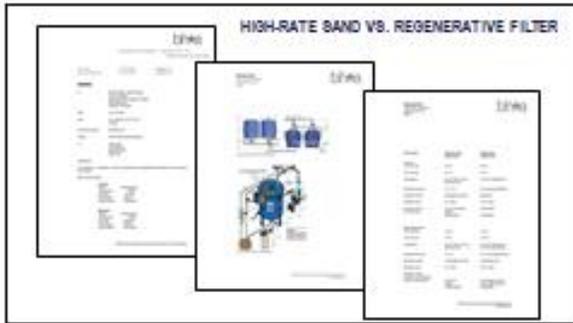
*The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.*

# Attachment 1: Pool design presentation.



COMMON FEATURES





OPERATIONS	DESIGN TO YOUR NEEDS	DESIGN TO THE NEW CODE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Screen Abandon</li> <li>- Access and Control</li> <li>- Concession</li> <li>- Food and Ticket Renewal</li> <li>- Non-Alcohol Activities</li> <li>- Amenities Management</li> <li>- Data Maintenance</li> <li>- Staffing Levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff Capabilities and Training</li> <li>- Facility Maintenance</li> <li>- Complexity of Operations</li> <li>- Safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5G, QR, QR Proximity</li> <li>- Amenities</li> <li>- Location: Future Courts</li> <li>- Turn Over Rate - Increase by 50%</li> <li>- Features and Styles - U/I Consistent</li> <li>- Supply Chain Reevaluation</li> </ul>
		

QUESTIONS

## **Attachment 2: Department Updates**

### **Weston Recreation Programming updates 10-20-2021**

- Fall after school programming has started, at approximately 60% capacity because of bussing restrictions. Most programs have filled to limited capacity.
- Red Waves swim season –
  - Have safety plan that allows for up to 36 swimmers in the pool at one time, up from 12. Planning two cohorts of each age group – 8 & under, 9 & 10, 11 & up. Some cohorts will only have 24 max because HS Diving Team will use two lanes during those practice time. This capacity is equivalent to about 85% of pre-COVID numbers.
  - Planning in-person meets but specifics in safety plan still being worked out.
    - First home meet tentatively planned for weekend of January 8-9.
- Skating contract finalized. Registration opens at full capacity on October 26. Restrictions right now is to mask during activity, will update as needed.
- Second annual Thanksgiving Intergenerational Hike being planned with COA on November 20. Hike on trails through Case Estates and on sidewalks around Case Campus. Course adjusted this year with optional ½ mile wooded loop added; distances 2 and 2.5 miles. No cost for this event, no pre-registration needed.
- New adult programming
  - Evening Pottery class begins Monday, October 25
  - Planning evening exercise class with details to be finalized
  - New Wreath making workshop scheduled for December 8 (evening). Information coming.
- Field permitting – new community events
  - Czarnowski field (Brook Rd.) – Hosted neighborhood block party on October 11
  - Field School Field and Weston Community Center - Outdoor Diwali celebration planned for October 30, outdoor event with access to the building for bathrooms.
- Youth programming – Currently planning winter season with COVID restrictions that are in place right now.