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Recreation Board Meeting  
December 7, 2022.

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to call the meeting to order.

Jo Ann Pickrell - so moved

Ann Brennan - second

Roger Carroll - the motion carried

Roger Carroll - may we have a roll call

Tim Bezbatchesenko - absent

Ann Brennan - Present

Roger Carroll - Present

Clare Ceballos - Present

Joanne Pickrell - Present

School Board

Aly DeAngelo - Present

Jessica Saad

City Council Representative

Roger Carroll - may I have a motion to approve the October minutes

Anne Brennan - so moved

Joanne Pickrell - second

Oger Carroll - the motion carried

Roger Carroll - may I have a motion to approve the November minutes

Anne Brennan - so moved

Joanne Pickrell - second

Roger Carroll - the motion carried

### **Year of the Parks - active Space for Youth - Mayor Kessler**

Mike Price - Mayor Kessler is here to speak on the Active Space Portion Of The Year Of The Parks.

Mayor Kessler - Some popular topics for active spaces are Skate Parks, Bike Trails, Recreation Center, Outdoor Foosball, Outdoor Ping Pong, Playground, Forest Playground, Basketball Court, Turf, Splash Pad, Obstacle Course, Climbing Wall, Sand Volleyball, Ropes Course, Waterpark, Ropes Course, Dog Park.

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Some identified projects for the Year of the Park are Outdoor Play Tables, two Splash Pads, Dog Park and Athletic Fields.

Progress is nearly complete on the Commonwealth Athletic Fields, The park across from Drexel Theatre will include Fire Pit, Ping Pong tables or Foosball tables. The next area is Splash Pad at Schneider Park.

Some ideas we should be talking about are Skate Park, Forrest Playground, Basketball Court, Climbing Wall and Sand Volleyball. I know there is a moratorium on doing anything more in Jeffrey Park right now. As we talk about the concept at Jeffrey if that is not the right space then maybe there are other spaces to talk about.

Next proposed activity is a Sand Volleyball Court. The advantage of a Sand Volleyball court is it is a soft surface, low cost to install, easy to relocate, complimentary to pool use.

Bouldering / Climbing Walls the advantage is it is a small footprint, able to be relocated, complimentary to playground and park use, exciting and engaging instalation. The surrounding surface is similar to playgrounds

Next is Natural Play. This integrates with the landscape, inspires creative play, low cost to install. We talked about it at Schneider Park down the road. It can be a complimentary fixture to the Jeffrey Playground.

Skate Park / Ramps,.We used to have Skate Park Ramps at jeffrey for awhile and also at City Hall. We can use solid movable ramps with a concept that we can have seasonal ramps. They can go into existing complimentary space.

This is a concept that in lew of the Basketball Court we would remove that asphalt and put in a sand Volleyball Court. It would have removal fencing during pool season; it would be an amenity to the pool and after pool season it would be an amenity to the park.

It would reduce the hard space in the park and could easily be relocated if plans change. Another space could be by the swing set or east of the tennis courts or near the proposed Four Season Shelter.

The concrete pad next to the pool shelter can be a half court basketball court. Again it is something we talk about and I am curious about your thoughts.

Ann Brennan - I am not in favor of creating more spaces. I am protective of Jeffrey Park space. The moratorium was passed just three years ago and was very clear to preserve the green space. My passion is to preserve the green space for future generations. Its

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The purpose is not to be a recreation center. Jeffrey Park was given to preserve the park space. It is primarily a leisure park and if you try to make it a multi purpose we will never get the park space back. I have so many issues and I am strongly opposed to developing Jeffrey Park green space. I am certainly supportive of pursuing other options. We passed that resolution with the intention to protect Jeffrey Park.

Roger Carroll - What is the process Ben ? Did you have a committee?

Mayor Kessler - We had a Parks Vision Committee. This presentation just shows a vision, this is not a plan by any stretch of the imagination. I do want to state infactly we are undeserving a generation of kids. Multi generational space is desireable.

How do we blend generational spaces?

I respect Anne's perspective. It is important, I also believe when Jeffrey deeded the park and the mansion as a community space. I share your beliefs and whenever we do anything at Jeffrey Park we do it in a way that is done carefully. Can we talk about where else we can do this in the City? We have to find a way to listen to the kids and find a way to accommodate this.

Roger Carroll - Has there been discussion with the school district? This is something the school district should be supported of. Maryland and Montrose have some land.

Joanne Pickrell - speaking not as a school member at Montrose the space other than the playground is used for sporting activities. This is the same for Maryland and Cassingham. From a school board perspective we need more space like the mayor has proposed. Need places where kids feel more comfortable to get to. From my perspective this plan.

Mayor Kessler - this is not a plan.

Joanne Pickrell - The basketball space is a complete waste of space. I would be in favor of redeveloping that, sand volleyball or any other suggested activity. We are reimagining spaces we are already using.

Roger Carroll - I think after the Pickleball Courts were added it was an added space. In order to move on with the Pickleball Court it was the consensus of the board that we would not do anything further in terms of adding any more permanent structures that would take away the meadow or the woods.

Joanne Pickrell - My vision is to repurpose the existing spaces that are not green spaces.

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Ann Brennan - John my husband worked in Recreation and one of his main passions in life was recreation programming he would not jeopardize Jeffrey Park for that purpose he would seek alternatives to program for those kids. My thoughts are there can be temporary structures and temporary programming that would not require permanent structures. And not offer it twenty four / seven all the time. The more the activity it will eventually impact the habitat.

Jessica Saad - The school administration closes all playgrounds at dark. So the question is where do those kids go? We need to find a space for the kids to go.

Roger Carroll - No one is disagreeing that there needs to be activities for middle school and high school kids. The question is where is the most appropriate place for not only that but for the entire community.

Mike Price - Jeffrey Park closes at 10:00 p.m. because we have some lights. It's a safety issue if you do not have lite areas.

Aly DeAngelo - I don't see the project taking up green space.

Ann Brennan - It is taking up green space by adding more activities to the area. Putting up a permanent structure would change the landscape.

Mayor Kessler - What would be helpful to me and Mike and those who support the concepts you could help me learn how to best interface with storming. Are there accommodations elsewhere in the city? I heard the sand volleyball might work, the skate ramp would not be permanent and could be taken to different spaces. I really want to make sure as we see this project that we want to be sensitive.

Roger Carroll - So the concept for volleyball where the basketball court is. The other things you are thinking of adding is a basketball half court at the campsite, a skate ramp at Jeffrey.

Mayor Kessler - The skate ramp can go between the strip of grass between the pickleball court and the fence line. Climbing bolder by the existing swing set.

I would love it if there is a way to consider some of these ideas.

Reconfiguring the basketball court can be done in the spring. The bolder will take longer.

Roger Carroll - Mike, what programs do we have currently for this age.

Mike Price - We have some ideas we are working on. We offer Camp Adventure. We offer middle school basketball that is going on right now. We offered flag football but

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were not successful. In the past we offered high school basketball but not recently. Ultimate frisbee. Some art based programming but not alot. They have a lot of other outlets they didn't have in the past.

### **Before / After Care Year End Report - Katie Sarvas**

Mike Price - Big thank you to Katie and her staff Emily, Colin, Campbell for all their hard work on BACPack and Before /After Care.

I just want to reiterate how BACKPack has been impacted over the past couple of years by staffing levels resulting in staff starting pay increases.

Katie Sarvas - Actual expenditures for the year 2018 - 2019 were \$275,743.00 for 2020-2021 \$192,321.00 and for 2021-2022 \$268,656.00

Overall revenue for 2018-2019 \$495,956.00 for 2020-2021 \$180,129.00 for 2021-2022 \$421,230.00

With Covid we did receive grant money . Both Maryland and Montrose received \$173,898.00 that was not included in the revenue total.

The net revenue for 2018-2019 was \$190,212.00 for 2020-2021 - \$12,192.00 and for 2021-2022 it was \$152,575.00

BACpack registration for 2019-2020 was 303 in 2020-2021 it was 111. SOCO registration for 2019-2020 it was 222 for 2021 -2022 it was 152

Registration is often driven by the number of staff available.

#### Scholarships

2018-2019 9 individuals BACpack \$21,164.50 SOCO \$3,994.00

2021-2022 12 individuals BACpack \$26,781.00 and SOCO \$2,481.00

Because of the Ryan Solomon Scholarship fund for camp the scholarship fund from the Recreation Department is able to provide more scholarships for BACKpack and SOCO. We do everything we can to meet families' needs for these programs.

BACKpack staffing we are at 32.

We hired a full time Recreation Coordinator for Maryland last year. Emily Sweet worked tirelessly to find staff to meet registration. We are working with the schools to get a school bus to help transport Cassingham kids. We do our best to make sure kids are

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outside as much as possible. We continue to look for more staff in spring so we can accommodate increased registration.

#### Recommendations

For BACKpack we recommend in order not to do a 27% increase of the cost from the 2019-2020 school year all at once we recommend to increase for the 2023 2023-2024 school year 7% based off of the current 2022-2023 school year costs. Then over the course of a few years do a 7% increase to meet the 27% increase.

For SOCO we recommend changing prices for the 2023-2024 school year to reflect Jeffrey Summer Camp's 2023 pricing. Daily \$45.00 Weekly \$192.00 Short Week \$174.00

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to approve the 7% increase for BACpack and SOCO fees

Clare Ceballos - so moved

Ann Brennan - second

All in favor - motion was approved .

#### **Jeffrey Mansion Rental Report - Lauren Miller**

Mike Price - I want to introduce Lauren Miller. She is here to give a report on mansion rentals looking at this year and outlook for next year.

Lauen Miller - overall we had a very successful 2022. Covid affected events catering immensely and it's nice to see things getting back to normal. Looking at the overall number of events in 2021 we had 39 - 14 in the carriage court, 21 in the jeffrey House. The Carriage Court was just coming on board. In 2022 we had 55 paid events. Looking forward to 2023 we have 23 paid events booked to date.

In 2021 we had 11 comped events, in 2022 we had 22.

Looking at Alcohol events in the Carriage in 2021- 9 of the 14 were alcohol.

In 2022 - 8 of the 25 events were alcohol. In 2023 to date 17 of the 19 are alcohol.

In the Jeffrey House in 2021 - 7 of 25 In 2022 - 8 of the 30. In 2023 to date 3 of 7. We had many non-residents who wanted alcohol in the Carriage Court but because of the restrictions had a dry wedding.

Lauren Miller - The revenue in 2021 was just over \$54,000.00. In 2022 close to \$86,000.00 a 36% increase. The revenue in 2023 is looking good. We have just over \$65,000.00.

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Lauren Miller then reviewed the rental fee schedule for each area of the Mansion.

Lauren miller - We do not have as many weekday rentals because of recreation programming in the building. We do some when we can.

Lauren Miller - We would like to discuss recommendations to the alcohol policy.

Mike Price - We will not ask for a vote on this today because of the potential for public interest.

Some of the things to address are the requirements of the security force. We would like some flexibility using the security force. Two issues are the cost and the inability to get police officers. If we don't get BPD then we have to go to the county and they require two officers, which is very expensive. The county is \$67 per officer per hour and they require you use two and a three hour minimum.

Lauren Miller - Would like the flexibility to determine if security would be required. For instance a small sixteen person event does not require security. We would like some flexibility to apply some logic in these situations.

Mike Price - We would like to expand the amount of alcohol events we can hold. Going for two events per month to twenty-four per year.

Ann Brennan - You do plan to notify the neighbors of the proposed changes.

Mike Price - Yes we do.

Lauren Miller - Events are very seasonal. Limited to two events in a specific month is tuff. January, February and March booking time goes unused. Then during the high demand months we are not able to accommodate the requests. We would like the flexibility to not be restricted to two a month.

Roger Carroll - What number do you want to increase it to?

Lauren Miller - Based on the number of inquiries for 2023 I would like to see twenty-four to thirty-six.

Mike Price - To open up alcohol events to non-residents. The biggest change would be the impact on revenue.

Laure Miller - If we move we would increase the rate for non-residents.

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Lauren Miller - To sum things up we recommend we remove the restriction that alcohol events in the Carriage Court be restricted to Bexley residents. Change the limit of only two alcohol events per month in the Carriage Court. Change the limit on a yearly basis not monthly. To allow the Recreation staff flexibility to waive the requirement of security for an alcohol event. (Smaller reception and or an event that has just a champagne toast.)

In addition, change the language to "security staff vs. Bexley Police Department. Residents receive priority when booking and the rental rate for non-resident will increase by \$500.00

Mike Price - I want to propose to keep dates to the first Wednesday of the month. In February we would need to change to the second Wednesday, February 8 because we will be at the OPRA conference. The April meeting would be April 12 because of Passover. We are off in July. Otherwise all meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month.

Roger Carroll- May I have a motion to approve the proposed meeting schedule.

Ann Brennan - So moved

Clare Ceballos - Second

Roger Carroll - All in favor. Motion is approved.

Director's Report

Tree Lighting

Mike Price - Most people by far this event. Thank you to Cate Swendal and the Jeffrey Mansion Preschool, Amy Blosser and the Bexley Middle School Concert Choir and the Vocal Ensemble for providing holiday music.

Thank you to volunteers from the Bexley Senior Center , the Bexley Police Department and the Bexley Service Department, Parks and Maintenance staff.

Special thank you to Kristen Sahweitzer for the organization of the tree Lighting.

Pancake Breakfast

Mike Price - The Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, December 10 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Jeffrey Mansion. Thank you to all the volunteers that help to make this event happen

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ann Brennan - So moved

Clare Ceballos - Second

Roger Carroll - All in favor. The motion was approved.



