



**Board of Parks and Recreation Virtual Zoom Meeting Transcript
April 27, 2022**

This Zoom transcript is computer generated and does not always accurately capture the words. Please refer to the posted audio of this meeting on our website.

WEBVTT

1

00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:00.960

That I don't think.

2

00:00:02.610 --> 00:00:07.589

Scott R. Johnson: I know we're not going to get rick low, we probably will get Mike so.

3

00:00:09.389 --> 00:00:10.830

Scott R. Johnson: So i'll start.

4

00:00:13.259 --> 00:00:18.270

Scott R. Johnson: So this is the April 27 regular meeting of the Board of parks and REC.

5

00:00:20.100 --> 00:00:20.640

Scott R. Johnson: and

6

00:00:22.080 --> 00:00:25.410

Scott R. Johnson: You know, as always, that there will be a transcript based on recording.

7

00:00:27.900 --> 00:00:35.850

Scott R. Johnson: i'll make some administrative comments later, but let's start off with just approval of March 30 zoom transcripts so any emotion to.

8

00:00:36.960 --> 00:00:38.940

Scott R. Johnson: To crew that can somebody gives emotion.

9

00:00:40.530 --> 00:00:41.100

Frank Di Vincenzo: emotion.

10

00:00:41.430 --> 00:00:42.630

Scott R. Johnson: I in my second that.

11

00:00:45.000 --> 00:00:48.270

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, so unfair raise your hands.

12

00:00:49.800 --> 00:00:51.960

Scott R. Johnson: With minor thing everyone's on okay.

13

00:00:53.430 --> 00:00:55.920

Scott R. Johnson: Let me just give a little bit of a.

14

00:00:57.000 --> 00:01:19.110

Scott R. Johnson: Administrative checklist um we have for us, we have a really full agenda, not just by items, but also by interest in kind of complication so we're going to have a fairly lengthy complicated presentation by way by plays and several matters.

15

00:01:20.310 --> 00:01:25.650

Scott R. Johnson: Including budget and pick a ball tennis and.

16

00:01:27.090 --> 00:01:32.070

Scott R. Johnson: We do not have or rink represented so we'll table that one.

17

00:01:33.630 --> 00:01:39.720

Scott R. Johnson: New matter that i'm going to talk about is the recent Board of selectmen name policy.

18

00:01:40.770 --> 00:01:46.530

Scott R. Johnson: And i'll do that a little bit when Sue on gives her a brief foundation update.

19

00:01:49.230 --> 00:02:01.920

Scott R. Johnson: Because we have some complicated stuff is lengthy presentations the comments by the public, remember, as usual, will do that during the public comment period.

20

00:02:02.550 --> 00:02:12.360

Scott R. Johnson: And during the presentation questions really by board members only because otherwise we'll get we may not get to some of the other important things.

21

00:02:13.770 --> 00:02:19.380

Scott R. Johnson: And also Nancy has an important subject and we.

22

00:02:20.460 --> 00:02:25.530

Scott R. Johnson: will shift to another new business thing that's going on the agenda that I said it's fine to which is.

23

00:02:26.670 --> 00:02:32.940

Scott R. Johnson: Peter you're in and invading park so let's let's start off with.

24

00:02:34.980 --> 00:02:40.260

Scott R. Johnson: um well before we get the treasurer's report cho, we have to.

25

00:02:41.940 --> 00:02:57.720

Scott R. Johnson: memorial situations in our parts of that family one is Mike chinos mom so, our thoughts are with the family and the second one is john hartwell who died last week.

26

00:02:57.870 --> 00:03:00.600

Scott R. Johnson: home in Florida and.

27

00:03:01.230 --> 00:03:14.190

Scott R. Johnson: I only knew about it from the paper um I did speak to him several months ago, and for those of you that don't know me first of all, he was on parks and REC for for quite a while he.

28

00:03:15.870 --> 00:03:29.520

Scott R. Johnson: did a lot with fields committee he kind of ran the fields cody for quite some time, he was a retired IBM guy for many, many years i'm stationed all over the world, including Brazil.

29

00:03:31.260 --> 00:03:35.160

Scott R. Johnson: And when he retired from parks and REC board.

30

00:03:36.240 --> 00:03:51.600

Scott R. Johnson: He told me that he had developed a chest complication not not just cancer, but some I want some emphysema like stuff and so he moved to Florida, but I did not know he anticipated passing away that quickly so.

31

00:03:52.830 --> 00:04:06.330

Scott R. Johnson: Our thoughts to him, I know I have you got to know him pretty well particularly Sue snyder and Joe and lenore he always said, extremely fun things for all the help that the Nordic.

32

00:04:07.350 --> 00:04:10.620

Scott R. Johnson: So um so.

33

00:04:11.670 --> 00:04:14.970

Scott R. Johnson: Just recommendation to those guys aren't console condolences.

34

00:04:16.050 --> 00:04:16.770

Scott R. Johnson: um.

35

00:04:17.940 --> 00:04:23.010

Scott R. Johnson: If anybody wants to send me that that we can do it later or now board members now, if you want, but.

36

00:04:25.050 --> 00:04:31.320

Scott R. Johnson: let's say jump it's okay jump to to your directors report to be supplemented I know my place.

37

00:04:33.360 --> 00:04:34.020

Joe Siciliano: Okay.

38

00:04:35.220 --> 00:04:37.290

Joe Siciliano: Can you hear me Scott, I just plugged in my headset so.

39

00:04:37.710 --> 00:04:57.000

Joe Siciliano: Yes, okay so just a couple things, as we all know that we're approaching the spring high part of the spring may coming June tons of things on our list of things to do, beaches and pools parks, you know ferry boat.

40

00:04:58.050 --> 00:05:11.160

Joe Siciliano: Right now we're kind of entrenched in the budget process with just got through with the BT and moving towards the our team meetings for next week and the following week, our team for approval.

41

00:05:13.770 --> 00:05:24.960

Joe Siciliano: So it's very active in the office we're back at pre coven levels of activity, both in the amount of people that we're dealing with, and also the amount of people signing up for our programs.

42

00:05:27.090 --> 00:05:40.380

Joe Siciliano: kind of a switch in our policy for residency requirements and what we call the early bird where you can apply by a certain time and save a few dollars as as yielded really good results in the sense that.

43

00:05:41.580 --> 00:05:53.340

Joe Siciliano: If you sign on to validate your permit your part, your part permit that's a very short period of time, probably within three or four days that you can get it all done and you'd have a renewed permit.

44

00:05:53.760 --> 00:06:01.260

Joe Siciliano: Usually, this time of the year, where we know, without some of the modifications we've been doing over the last couple of years it's weeks so.

45

00:06:01.890 --> 00:06:09.450

Joe Siciliano: Early birds working people are taking advantage of a short small discount but social media is helping that dramatically.

46

00:06:10.020 --> 00:06:19.260

Joe Siciliano: Because we're posting Thank you lenore and all the other superintendents that Iran, but give information to lenore to post but we're posting constantly.

47

00:06:19.650 --> 00:06:28.830

Joe Siciliano: on Facebook and other social media platforms and we're getting some good results, people are responding all of our camp programs are full.

48

00:06:29.880 --> 00:06:40.050

Joe Siciliano: Very few spots all of the other programs that we're having for activities, people are signing up there, trying to get their kids out and about or get themselves out and about.

49

00:06:41.760 --> 00:06:49.440

Joe Siciliano: here's a couple little statistics we haven't talked about golf that much in one of our last few meetings but golf courses open full time.

50

00:06:50.550 --> 00:06:59.160

Joe Siciliano: We opened up on march 17 and you Chris we battled the weather, for a few weeks and various conditions warm cold very cold very rainy.

51

00:07:00.150 --> 00:07:11.400

Joe Siciliano: But it seems to be a little bit more stable now, but you know with last year, we had a total of for the season of 2300 Members this year as of this week.

52

00:07:11.970 --> 00:07:21.150

Joe Siciliano: We have a total of 1600 and 75 Members that have already joined and we do know that people, and we have an early bird special there too, so he joined before a certain date.

53

00:07:21.510 --> 00:07:25.410

Joe Siciliano: You get a little slight discount on your membership, but we do know that people join.

54

00:07:25.800 --> 00:07:43.770

Joe Siciliano: Generally, when they show up at the golf course and pay their membership and pay it play their first round so there's no doubt in my mind that you know will be at that at that same number of about 2300 members which really equates to the Members, the non.

55

00:07:44.790 --> 00:07:56.340

Joe Siciliano: Members and guests about 45,000 rounds of golf in one season so that's a huge number and that number has escalated during coven dramatically and.

56

00:07:56.910 --> 00:08:05.970

Joe Siciliano: You know, people are still have somewhat of an alternate work schedule and always finding that space for golf in there, I can I can play golf work in the evening I can.

57

00:08:06.300 --> 00:08:15.270

Joe Siciliano: do certain things so it's been a beneficial all the way around, we have all the all the slots 123 we have about a dozen or.

58

00:08:15.870 --> 00:08:25.290

Joe Siciliano: 14 slots that have all been filled for shotgun tournaments and over the year you know, last year, the year before we did very few of those and.

59

00:08:25.770 --> 00:08:33.600

Joe Siciliano: So those are all full and you know, we have just to mention a couple things we have a new golf pro at the golf course Patrick massey.

60

00:08:33.960 --> 00:08:41.430

Joe Siciliano: And I think I announced this with one of our previous meetings that Patrick was the first assistant for Joe filter for a number of years.

61

00:08:42.030 --> 00:08:51.450

Joe Siciliano: And pat's kind of feeling his way out and he's doing a great job I mean he's modernize the shop, you know he's gotten more technical as far as how he.

62

00:08:52.320 --> 00:09:02.460

Joe Siciliano: tries to attract people for the shop and lessons and just the golf course in general and also also he's going to take a stab at a summer camp this year.

63

00:09:03.150 --> 00:09:08.880

Joe Siciliano: So if anyone's interested in looking that up, you can go to Patrick massi golf shop and.

64

00:09:09.330 --> 00:09:17.550

Joe Siciliano: there's a link there to a summer camp I think there's going to be some half day summer camp programs during the month of July end of June and July.

65

00:09:18.030 --> 00:09:28.530

Joe Siciliano: And you can read the details there, I did not bring all the details with me, but you know it'll be some golf instruction and some fun and it's going to be between Patrick.

66

00:09:29.070 --> 00:09:35.970

Joe Siciliano: The golf course at the high school and another individual that pat has brought on to help with some instruction.

67

00:09:36.330 --> 00:09:50.190

Joe Siciliano: and teaching clay and that type of thing so it's something new that we haven't done in this venue and so patch trying to address the needs and you know we there's room to room to discuss and to grow, so that the golf course seems to be honest way.

68

00:09:51.210 --> 00:10:06.150

Joe Siciliano: So over the weekend matter of fact, Friday Saturday and Sunday of this past weekend we played most about 700 rounds of golf just in those three days and in those weather conditions so it's it's it's it's honest way.

69

00:10:07.200 --> 00:10:17.010

Joe Siciliano: Just a couple other things Scott i'll comment on this now, but, but you know, so we, and we can talk about it more i'd like to give a little bit of an update about the.

70

00:10:17.430 --> 00:10:20.040

Joe Siciliano: Eastern granted civic Center of construction and contract.

71

00:10:20.610 --> 00:10:28.860

Joe Siciliano: The contract as of yesterday a check with dp w is in the final stages of getting signed so that means the documents or been produced.

72

00:10:29.100 --> 00:10:37.920

Joe Siciliano: Insurance everything that the contractor had to had to produce he did it's in the final phases of the signatures which gets passed between dp w.

73

00:10:38.340 --> 00:10:47.400

Joe Siciliano: The law department, the controller's office and so hopefully that'll get settled really soon and Luigi Romano who is taken over for Alan.

74

00:10:47.820 --> 00:10:54.750

Joe Siciliano: is going to be planning very shortly, a site planning meeting with the contractor, so we can talk about staging.

75

00:10:55.350 --> 00:11:03.390

Joe Siciliano: Safety fencing and kind of get it, he can lose you'll be able to get a little bit more of an updated schedule of his intent to.

76

00:11:04.260 --> 00:11:24.330

Joe Siciliano: To take charge of the building and and to move forward with the remediation and demolition etc so we're right around the corner and so that should happen in the next few weeks and we should be on our way with the started the construction, so you know, all in all.

77

00:11:25.350 --> 00:11:42.150

Joe Siciliano: that's that's where we are blaise will talk about the budget some budgetary items and some clickable information and then we can you know proceed with the rest of the the agenda so we're here to hang in and listen and answer some questions if necessary.

78

00:11:46.440 --> 00:11:46.860

Joe Siciliano: that's it.

79

00:11:48.600 --> 00:11:50.100

Blaize Levitan (Parks): hey Scott, you want me to.

80

00:11:50.160 --> 00:11:51.480

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Talk about budget yeah.

81

00:11:51.870 --> 00:11:53.970

Scott R. Johnson: I want you to do well why don't you do the.

82

00:11:56.520 --> 00:11:57.720

Scott R. Johnson: Budget update.

83

00:11:58.080 --> 00:12:01.920

Scott R. Johnson: Someone in response to some of the questions we've been asked, and then we want to go to subject.

84

00:12:02.580 --> 00:12:06.720

Blaize Levitan (Parks): yeah so we'll touch on budget first so as Joe mentioned we've been.

85

00:12:08.130 --> 00:12:18.990

Blaize Levitan (Parks): In the thick of the budget on the BT have proved the proposed budget and sent it to the RCM on April 19 so the proposed budget now post it on the town's website.

86

00:12:19.650 --> 00:12:31.560

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And our team will be voting on the budget on may night, we will be meeting with various committees over the next you know week and a half or so, our tm committees.

87

00:12:32.310 --> 00:12:38.160

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Joe an idea we wanted to mention and Scott, we were talking about this, the other day that we do appreciate some of the patients.

88

00:12:38.820 --> 00:12:50.670

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And you know our response time a little bit we are getting a lot of questions about obviously budget and also pickle ball and everything else and there's a lot of Members on the are tm and b et and also the public.

89

00:12:52.170 --> 00:12:56.700

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And so, people have lots of questions which is normal, but I do appreciate some patients and some of the responses.

90

00:12:58.560 --> 00:13:06.720

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Budget our operating budget only going up by 1.5% as a department, all in all, well under guidelines.

91

00:13:07.320 --> 00:13:26.430

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And also pretty much when we made it through the BT they move to programs that were previously defined as capital into operating this year, as they did last year, those two projects were very dry dock inspection.

92

00:13:27.510 --> 00:13:39.420

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Which is the annual maintenance and coast guard inspection work on the fairies and that was moved into account code 833 For those of you that look at the budget closely that's 290,000 a year.

93

00:13:40.410 --> 00:13:49.020

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And then, they also move the mini park pond dredging program which is \$75,000 a year was put together by dp w into our budget.

94

00:13:49.860 --> 00:14:02.550

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So if you do look at the budget it will look like it's going up now 4.5% um but that's because of those 290,000 alone for that one program those were reclassified from capital to operating.

95

00:14:04.020 --> 00:14:12.840

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And the other major things really nothing else happened in the operating budget, and most of the conversation, for the last few weeks has been about capital.

96

00:14:14.040 --> 00:14:21.120

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Some great news the BT did add in the Ada master plan for \$150,000.

97

00:14:22.320 --> 00:14:31.680

Blaize Levitan (Parks): This was a program that was requested by the first selectman is advisory committee for people with disabilities, it was intended to be funded by art funds.

98

00:14:32.610 --> 00:14:40.710

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And was going to be funded by art, but then the town had received the further you know interpretation of eligibility kind of late in the game.

99

00:14:41.190 --> 00:14:54.780

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So it was cut from art funding, but the BT did add that money back in that will be a great program we're going to leverage the same contract that dp w has used to assess accessibility standards for all sidewalks in town.

100

00:14:55.530 --> 00:15:08.850

Blaize Levitan (Parks): we're going to do that, for all of our facilities work with the first like men's advisory committee for people with disabilities to go, you know location by location and produce an experience that is accessible for everybody in our Community.

101

00:15:10.950 --> 00:15:19.020

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The tree risk program was reduced by \$50,000 we had a couple vehicles cut out.

102

00:15:20.790 --> 00:15:28.590

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Mike pitino you know the golf course \$75,000 to design the new restaurant building was deferred by a year.

103

00:15:29.850 --> 00:15:32.700

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So hopefully next year we'll be able to kind of fight for that one.

104

00:15:34.830 --> 00:15:51.300

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And those are the major really the major changes to capital, the field masterplan the funding for the finished the drainage work we had 600,000 in there, that was reduced to 400,000 with 200,000 being moved to next year.

105

00:15:52.650 --> 00:16:04.590

Blaize Levitan (Parks): As long as the 200,000 does get funded next year that's that's Okay, with the department that align with the work that's realistic for us to complete at this point anyways and we had a lot of extensive and healthy conversations.

106

00:16:05.160 --> 00:16:12.180

Blaize Levitan (Parks): With the B E T over the last month and a half and Nancy did a great job.

107

00:16:13.230 --> 00:16:22.530

Blaize Levitan (Parks): She was the point person for the pomerantz tuchman masterplan \$40,000 that also includes pineal and even though it's called Palmer and Stockman.

108

00:16:23.460 --> 00:16:35.100

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But that's the funding, you know that was the request by the board to do that she really you know, yes Mike she deserves a see you clap your hands, you really had a bunch of meetings between Members and.

109

00:16:36.300 --> 00:16:48.540

Blaize Levitan (Parks): was able to keep you know through that effort and talking with our liaison to the BT board Miriam and Mike was able to keep that funding in there for the year so on to the next, but.

110

00:16:49.980 --> 00:17:00.180

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Those are those are really the major updates for for the budget, you know 1.5% as we've mentioned before there's really not a lot in there to talk about in the operating side.

111

00:17:01.260 --> 00:17:09.780

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And just so everyone knows to another question that we do kind of get sometimes with the eastern granted civic Center closing and I can see it, we can already see this coming back up.

112

00:17:11.820 --> 00:17:26.280

Blaize Levitan (Parks): We do have we did you know the revenue for all the programs is recorded in a different area of the budget it's recorded in a 12 the eastern Greenwich civic Center as a building is closed the eastern grandage.

113

00:17:27.360 --> 00:17:35.910

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Civic Center as a community service will continue, while we are close and that's what the staff, the recreation supervisor that is assigned to that.

114

00:17:36.510 --> 00:17:44.040

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Building will continue to do that's what's reflected in the budget they're still camps programs clinics basketball.

115

00:17:44.790 --> 00:17:52.110

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Where we found alternate locations we've also got community groups, you know with the hospital the parkinson's group card playing.

116

00:17:52.500 --> 00:18:00.060

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And we, you know, have been committed to finding these people in these groups other locations to operate and we plan to operate all those services.

117

00:18:00.900 --> 00:18:07.980

Blaize Levitan (Parks): For the Community during this period and that's what the staff that are assigned the full time staff that are assigned at the eastern grant civic Center will continue to work I.

118

00:18:09.600 --> 00:18:13.320

Blaize Levitan (Parks): don't know that's really the main highlights from the budget, you know, unless Scott, yes and questions.

119

00:18:13.770 --> 00:18:23.550

Scott R. Johnson: yeah, but please, one thing that I couldn't find and i'm not sure you found it just because I was asked by the oprah show called people is the tragedy and for the top fear.

120

00:18:24.630 --> 00:18:28.710

Scott R. Johnson: He was a he was a \$40,000 starting request.

121

00:18:29.280 --> 00:18:30.780

Scott R. Johnson: dinner, or maybe Brian what did.

122

00:18:31.530 --> 00:18:33.390

Scott R. Johnson: I couldn't tell if that was in or not.

123

00:18:34.620 --> 00:18:38.820

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Right and that's the Greenwich point cove dredge right that's what that is.

124

00:18:40.080 --> 00:18:41.940

Brian Kerzner: hi yes yeah.

125

00:18:42.390 --> 00:18:44.460

Blaize Levitan (Parks): yep that's in there let's data in 40,000.

126

00:18:44.910 --> 00:18:49.800

Scott R. Johnson: So that but that number is for testing and studies and.

127

00:18:51.930 --> 00:19:09.660

Blaize Levitan (Parks): that's the complete the soil sampling that's needed to finish out, we already have money that to get the permit and everything, this is just to complete the soil sample to finish the permitting and then in the next year is the funding showed actually due to dredge million dollars.

128

00:19:10.860 --> 00:19:11.370

Okay.

129

00:19:13.710 --> 00:19:24.270

Scott R. Johnson: Because that you may know the answer this but that plus the potential dredging of carnage harbor all of a sudden there's some talk that that might be.

130

00:19:24.870 --> 00:19:42.960

Scott R. Johnson: usable are available from some of the stimulus money, and I know there are managers talking about that for quite a target if we have a good permit for that So do you know right off the here are we getting any stimulus money for any of our projects, or is it just too hard to predict.

131

00:19:43.800 --> 00:19:45.720

Blaize Levitan (Parks): we're not not for the art funds.

132

00:19:46.350 --> 00:19:46.500

know.

133

00:19:48.330 --> 00:19:51.960

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The money, I can send it to the you after Scott, to share with the board but.

134

00:19:52.620 --> 00:20:03.270

Blaize Levitan (Parks): All of the art funding allocations have been assigned by the town and are posted on the town's website, and I can send that to you, so you this is the American rescue plan funding the 33 million.

135

00:20:03.840 --> 00:20:16.200

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The BT had a long meeting in April, where they took the first selectman recommendations and assigned all of that money to specific projects groups organizations in town already.

136

00:20:18.030 --> 00:20:18.750

Blaize Levitan (Parks): I can send it.

137

00:20:19.380 --> 00:20:22.620

Blaize Levitan (Parks): To you, but it's not there's no money for parks and recreation.

138

00:20:25.440 --> 00:20:29.430

Scott R. Johnson: Right so anybody have any questions on on bunch of other stuff.

139

00:20:29.790 --> 00:20:38.760

Michael Bocchino: ways that I just want to chime in have you guys can hear me just let me know if you can hear me because I am sitting in my locker room, as you can see.

140

00:20:39.870 --> 00:20:41.580

Michael Bocchino: At the restaurant and.

141

00:20:42.660 --> 00:20:50.640

Michael Bocchino: The point that you just made and we kind of pass by it quickly about the eastern Granite civic Center.

142

00:20:51.300 --> 00:21:08.190

Michael Bocchino: Continuing to operate and run all of those immediate programs for everyone that's out there in the Community is massive that's huge everybody in this town needs to know that.

143

00:21:08.940 --> 00:21:21.840

Michael Bocchino: You got that we're doing the due diligence to make certain that these kids are still going to have summer programs available and something like soup puts out with the.

144

00:21:22.860 --> 00:21:30.270

Michael Bocchino: notifications the email the update the newsletter I think that is one of the top things that should be out there.

145

00:21:30.660 --> 00:21:43.080

Michael Bocchino: More importantly, I I would be happy to reach out to the grant Sentinel to make sure that parks and recreation, is making certain that this is continuing to be available to the Community, because.

146

00:21:43.890 --> 00:21:59.520

Michael Bocchino: We have so many people that you know, in whatever it doesn't matter if it's this particular issue or another issue, both sides coming at each other, this is the one thing that we should be really.

147

00:22:00.570 --> 00:22:14.490

Michael Bocchino: supportive of and really proud of the fact that the town of grants is continuing these projects, even though that the Community, you know that the building is being redone so that's all I wanted to say appreciate it.

148

00:22:15.780 --> 00:22:16.350

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Thank you Mike.

149

00:22:19.740 --> 00:22:22.950

Scott R. Johnson: Anyone jump to pick a ball tennis.

150

00:22:23.700 --> 00:22:29.790

Blaize Levitan (Parks): yeah I think Joe I think was just trying to talk to me about mike's point I think he just wanted to mention so.

151

00:22:29.910 --> 00:22:41.130

Joe Siciliano: Sorry just just so tomorrow night we're going we're gonna have to appear or sense of documentation to the Boc who wants to cut the remaining amount of money out of our budget for the Eastern grant and civic Center.

152

00:22:41.850 --> 00:22:51.030

Joe Siciliano: So we keep staff we kept some staff we shifted a lot tons of staffing we just kept three individuals, the two custodians and the.

153

00:22:51.420 --> 00:22:58.350

Joe Siciliano: And the and the, and the direct supervisor, because the building is only one assignment that this person, they have.

154

00:22:58.620 --> 00:23:04.680

Joe Siciliano: So now we're overloading our other facilities we're overloading the Western civic Center the other smaller Community centers.

155

00:23:04.920 --> 00:23:12.570

Joe Siciliano: are going to occupy Eastern middle school we're going to occupy riverside school for our camp programs we're going to be doing all these things and we're going to be taking.

156

00:23:12.960 --> 00:23:24.840

Joe Siciliano: You know some of our custodians and supplementing their custodians because they didn't sign up to run our program out of their buildings and their facilities so we're doing this and we and we executed this very thoughtfully.

157

00:23:25.230 --> 00:23:29.700

Joe Siciliano: and very exactly so that we wanted to keep the program base going.

158

00:23:30.210 --> 00:23:37.830

Joe Siciliano: So Mike you're right on board, and I appreciate you saying that but we're getting pushback now from the VOC that says well what are these three people doing.

159

00:23:38.040 --> 00:23:46.350

Joe Siciliano: You know the building is going to be shut down for two years, we still have a whole program based that we're going to run for the Community and for our children during the summer.

160

00:23:46.680 --> 00:23:59.460

Joe Siciliano: And you know we're out there slugging all those programs and so it's kind of disheartening we did explain this to the BT Budget Committee, they bought in we explained it to the full BT they bought in.

161

00:23:59.760 --> 00:24:08.550

Joe Siciliano: And now we're you know we're faced with a possible scenario, so if anybody knows anybody that wants to politic for us this is something that we really are really.

162

00:24:09.300 --> 00:24:13.680

Joe Siciliano: passionate about and really want to make sure it happens and continues, because without that.

163

00:24:14.070 --> 00:24:22.200

Joe Siciliano: Those people the programs will not exist, we need the oversight, the supervision in the management, so the programs really won't exist so.

164

00:24:22.740 --> 00:24:32.790

Joe Siciliano: If you know anybody on the RCM and you can put on a good word I think there's going to be emotion by the blt to VOC to cut money out of our budget for the Eastern grid and civic Center staffing.

165

00:24:34.020 --> 00:24:41.850

Joe Siciliano: And we'll get we maybe can provide more information, after the meeting tomorrow night, so thank you so I have to say just a little PR.

166

00:24:43.410 --> 00:24:52.290

Michael Bocchino: that we need a lot of PR that's what i'm saying is, we need to show that you know the parks and REC is doing the right thing Easter grant service Center is doing the right thing.

167

00:24:52.620 --> 00:25:02.340

Michael Bocchino: And the problem and i'm going to be quite blunt the problem in this town is people don't pay attention they read the headlines and they listen to people that they talk with.

168

00:25:02.910 --> 00:25:10.050

Michael Bocchino: Over coffee here or there, but they don't actually do the investigation and look into it and we need to, we need to control the narrative.

169

00:25:10.620 --> 00:25:25.140

Michael Bocchino: And I say control the narrative in the fact that we just need to show the facts, this is what parks and recs doing this is what we have decided is most important for the town of grants and it we're not we're not.

170

00:25:26.310 --> 00:25:41.340

Michael Bocchino: doing anything that's above and beyond what the Group is actually decided is the most important for the Community and at the end of the day is most important for the kids so that message needs to get out and.

171

00:25:42.000 --> 00:25:50.010

Michael Bocchino: I hope that we're able to do that in some fashion, because I don't think that these you know individuals that will be throwing the stones at those meetings.

172

00:25:51.510 --> 00:26:02.610

Michael Bocchino: will understand exactly what has been done and what's being kept in in the working environment While all this is going on, because there's a lot of other.

173

00:26:03.180 --> 00:26:13.170

Michael Bocchino: programs and initiatives that are going that aren't getting the same tlc, and this is something that they need to be aware of anyway that's all.

174

00:26:13.530 --> 00:26:14.010

Michael Bocchino: Thanks Mike.

175

00:26:15.270 --> 00:26:28.530

Tracy Freedman: and Joe as a Member, you know of the art tm I mean like I mean this is the first time hearing about this motion, I know, there was the motion on the pickup ball so definitely something that um you know I can discuss discuss with you further.

176

00:26:29.040 --> 00:26:32.490

Joe Siciliano: Well, we just found out about it at 245 this afternoon.

177

00:26:34.740 --> 00:26:40.800

Joe Siciliano: So we thought you know we did the right thing we went through the whole explain knows we got it in a place where everybody's comfortable.

178

00:26:41.100 --> 00:26:55.350

Joe Siciliano: And then we get them at 245, this afternoon we get emotion from the Boc saying that they're going to make them they're going to discuss it and make a motion to cut the money out of our budget so Okay, well, we have a little work to do so we'll keep going, thank you for your.

179

00:26:55.350 --> 00:26:56.790

Tracy Freedman: Support yeah yeah.

180

00:27:00.540 --> 00:27:02.100

Scott R. Johnson: So guys want to continue.

181

00:27:03.720 --> 00:27:07.260

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Sure yeah so next item is talking about.

182

00:27:07.260 --> 00:27:07.830

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Picking up.

183

00:27:08.460 --> 00:27:27.180

Blaize Levitan (Parks): This is everyone's favorite topic right now um so we've been doing a lot with pickle ball, there are two separate issues that i'm going to talk about that or I think both topics of interest, hopefully frank's doing okay down there at the green screen um.

184

00:27:28.350 --> 00:27:36.930

Blaize Levitan (Parks): he's visible, but the twos there's two issues will talk about one is the budget, the funding for.

185

00:27:37.470 --> 00:27:48.510

Blaize Levitan (Parks): New pickup ball courts and then a separate issue which i'll talk about separately, which is only related because it's pickle ball, but has nothing to do with the funding request is the laughlin park.

186

00:27:49.500 --> 00:27:59.550

Blaize Levitan (Parks): courts which we I think everyone here has probably been hearing about both of those issues separately and at the same time, so pickle ball funding.

187

00:28:00.450 --> 00:28:10.560

Blaize Levitan (Parks): i'll give a really quick little are sent out the fact sheet that we put together, highlighting the growth of pickle ball just basically a data sheet.

188

00:28:11.670 --> 00:28:18.030

Blaize Levitan (Parks): If you have any questions about that i'm going to review it briefly and also where the budget request stands at the moment.

189

00:28:19.470 --> 00:28:34.020

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So piccolo ball is the department's fastest growing sport there are hundreds of players in town and all of our clinics reach capacity and programs.

190

00:28:34.560 --> 00:28:45.210

Blaize Levitan (Parks): They all filled up actually like within the day that they were open from the fact sheet, you can see, the growth in fiscal year 19 we had 51 players enroll in our programming.

191

00:28:46.410 --> 00:28:53.670

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And by this year we had 349 players enroll in our programming, and that is reaching capacity.

192

00:28:55.020 --> 00:29:01.080

Blaize Levitan (Parks): This has also been growth that has been limited by Kobe capacity limits over the last two years.

193

00:29:01.860 --> 00:29:10.350

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And another way to look at the growth and overall programming would be the number that I provided on the fact sheet, which is.

194

00:29:11.100 --> 00:29:30.570

Blaize Levitan (Parks): revenue for all of our pickle ball based programming in fiscal year 2017 all in between all of our programs was \$8,816 and by last year 2021 we were at \$27,337 so lots of growth happening and fickle ball.

195

00:29:32.400 --> 00:29:36.450

Blaize Levitan (Parks): In addition, in 2021.

196

00:29:37.620 --> 00:29:48.300

Blaize Levitan (Parks): We implemented a requirement for you know the tennis cards basically became court reservation cards and apply to pickup ball, as well as tennis court reservations.

197

00:29:48.870 --> 00:29:58.500

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And the revenue went from around 70,000 to 130 5000 so there's a lot of demand for pickup ball, which I think we all know, and they have a justified.

198

00:29:59.010 --> 00:30:09.450

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Case we've only got two dedicated pickup ball courts, those are at cristiana, no one has actually closed right now, because of the image of the Court, so we have the one pickle ball court.

199

00:30:10.110 --> 00:30:24.090

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But there's two dedicated bookable courts those red cristiana the remaining pickle ball courts are hybrid striping where they are striped for both purposes, this has been a laughlin.

200

00:30:25.470 --> 00:30:34.950

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And we added one at Western middle school last year, and we also have the indoor play at Eastern right and civic Center and Western Granite civic Center.

201

00:30:36.030 --> 00:30:51.480

Blaize Levitan (Parks): bring your own, these are these these hybrid require pickup ball players to bring their own nets, because you obviously can't install permanent net in the middle of a tennis court if it's also being used for tennis so typical ball players have to bring their own that's at these locations.

202

00:30:52.830 --> 00:31:02.760

Blaize Levitan (Parks): They are pretty expensive, and you know it's not an ideal situation, but it is something to increase playing capacity, especially with the rapid surge during the pandemic.

203

00:31:03.720 --> 00:31:17.100

Blaize Levitan (Parks): We also added striping at Western middle school so now there are six knuckleball courts that at Western middle school and we added striping at by so now, there is also.

204

00:31:17.850 --> 00:31:21.540

Blaize Levitan (Parks): To pick a ball courts on one of the tennis courts there and.

205

00:31:22.050 --> 00:31:33.420

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Remember that school courts cannot be used when school is in session so during school hours, there are there's no reservation available for the school football courts but outside of that.

206

00:31:33.990 --> 00:31:52.080

Blaize Levitan (Parks): There has been more capacity, but there is still the need for the dedicated pickup ball courts, the pickup ball players have approached the town, for a number of years, requesting funding for the pickle ball court to be built for the last two fiscal years the department has requested.

207

00:31:53.130 --> 00:31:58.290

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Funding for the pickle ball courts and through the budget process, the funding has been deferred.

208

00:31:59.490 --> 00:32:09.930

Blaize Levitan (Parks): into our fiscal years, as often happens with many projects to balance, you know as the town looks to smooth out the capital needs.

209

00:32:12.000 --> 00:32:25.710

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But you know we're really getting to a point where there's a lot of demand for it, so the project that was in the budget was to take the old tennis court which is a basketball court over at Bible street.

210

00:32:27.660 --> 00:32:44.550

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And that was moved up by one fiscal year after the town received a petition from over 150 pickup ball players for some action in fiscal year 23 so the Board heard the the petition they move the project up.

211

00:32:45.780 --> 00:32:52.140

Blaize Levitan (Parks): It was originally requested by the department to be funded this year but it had been moved out twice and they moved it back up.

212

00:32:52.950 --> 00:33:03.930

Blaize Levitan (Parks): After hearing from you know hundred and 50 plus football players that project was for by the street so then.

213

00:33:04.500 --> 00:33:16.860

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Two things happen there was some misinformation that was shared that all basketball would be removed, and so we started from a place of hysteria and rightfully so of course and then.

214

00:33:18.060 --> 00:33:26.160

Blaize Levitan (Parks): It kind of just snowballed from there, and we also really you know we're under the gun here in the pressure of the.

215

00:33:27.480 --> 00:33:35.790

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Budget process and the rapid timeline of the end here, and the limited opportunity for public comment but there's also a real need for more pickup ball courts, there really is.

216

00:33:36.780 --> 00:33:49.200

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So we worked with the BT after hearing from the neighbors and many of the neighbors express their immediate concerns and felt like this was being forced down our throats and that we weren't recognized maybe we were missing the use of on.

217

00:33:50.820 --> 00:33:58.560

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You know there's no programming hours at those courts really but there's a lot of use here from the neighbors for show up and play.

218

00:33:59.190 --> 00:34:09.900

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And that was heard loud and clear, and we work together with the BT to amend the project funding so that it doesn't have to be spent at.

219

00:34:10.710 --> 00:34:20.400

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Bible street, as was originally shown in the budget and the money was conditioned upon parks interact, starting from scratch looking at all the data.

220

00:34:21.330 --> 00:34:30.810

Blaize Levitan (Parks): going through all of our locations talking with whatever neighborhood we might propose to put a cordon We then need to have a public hearing.

221

00:34:31.800 --> 00:34:53.580

Blaize Levitan (Parks): On the location and we then need to go to the BT present this information, present the public hearing commentary and request release of the funds, this is what is before the RCM and the proposed budget right now there's \$116,000 to build new pickle ball courts.

222

00:34:54.630 --> 00:34:58.530

Blaize Levitan (Parks): No longer at Bible street the money is not specified for that location.

223

00:34:59.760 --> 00:35:13.290

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And we have to do these things, we cannot touch the money until we satisfy those things as a department Joe and I do want to make it clear that we will also be committed to a transparent process because.

224

00:35:13.920 --> 00:35:20.220

Blaize Levitan (Parks): there's a need to get this money and we have the ability to execute it but there, we need to make sure that that the neighborhoods.

225

00:35:20.850 --> 00:35:34.470

Blaize Levitan (Parks): That we could be impacted are well notified we don't want anyone to feel like as what happens in these things often that something is getting snuck in or that there's something sneaky happening that is in no way, shape or form the case.

226

00:35:35.640 --> 00:35:48.900

Blaize Levitan (Parks): We there's no shortlist which we also keep hearing that that Bible street is on a secret shortlist that is not happening, it is on the same list as any other property which would be all the properties in town as we restart from scratch.

227

00:35:50.280 --> 00:35:53.040

Blaize Levitan (Parks): When we do zero in on the location, if we do get the funds.

228

00:35:54.480 --> 00:36:02.670

Blaize Levitan (Parks): After looking at all the data we would be contacting the neighbors we would host the public hearing in the neighborhood in which.

229

00:36:03.900 --> 00:36:13.800

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The location would be posted and we would notify all of the district our TEAM members of that district of the public hearing to notify their constituents and to provide comments.

230

00:36:15.630 --> 00:36:19.440

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And then we still have to go through the BT so that's that's what's before.

231

00:36:20.490 --> 00:36:25.890

Blaize Levitan (Parks): that's what's transpired on this budget item that's what's before the rtmp now.

232

00:36:27.180 --> 00:36:33.960

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The money is conditioned we plan on involving the relevant district our TEAM members, the key stakeholders.

233

00:36:34.470 --> 00:36:39.810

Blaize Levitan (Parks): To us this was a really good collaboration at this point between all the parties involved.

234

00:36:40.350 --> 00:36:52.650

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The budget process always gets a little complicated and tense and has tight timelines, and this is one of many projects in the 450 million dollar budget, so a lot of people operating under pressure, but.

235

00:36:53.250 --> 00:37:06.570

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The BT listened as well, they heard from all the pickle ball players that were contacting them for a need for more money, and we were all listening to the feedback that was received from the Bible street neighbors loud and clear.

236

00:37:07.620 --> 00:37:19.200

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Which is why we work together to amend the project to remove Bible street from the specification put the conditions in place and the pickle ballplayers and.

237

00:37:20.130 --> 00:37:26.760

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Have funding, an action, hopefully, the Boc will be another there's already emotion to cut the funding but.

238

00:37:27.690 --> 00:37:36.360

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You know they've got the funding and action, the Bible street neighbors are hopefully feeling better I know they're probably still nervous and rightfully so.

239

00:37:36.780 --> 00:37:43.530

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But hopefully we can talk to continue to talk to them over the next few days and football players can talk to them, but the department is talking to them.

240

00:37:44.010 --> 00:37:54.840

Blaize Levitan (Parks): and letting them know you know they don't feel like they've got this pressure coming down into their neighborhood and all of us decision makers don't have to feel like we've got to make this decision about the entire thing.

241

00:37:55.890 --> 00:37:57.750

Blaize Levitan (Parks): By Monday may night.

242

00:37:58.680 --> 00:37:59.040

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Right now.

243

00:37:59.130 --> 00:37:59.430

Wait.

244

00:38:00.540 --> 00:38:02.010

Scott R. Johnson: Let me cut in for a second.

245

00:38:02.130 --> 00:38:06.090

Scott R. Johnson: Because I just want you to to address.

246

00:38:07.260 --> 00:38:29.340

Scott R. Johnson: Some of the questions that i've been getting, for example, what What would the hundred thousand be used for as it kind of typical thing with a in the arm, are you also including in your analysis other potential sites not already designated and lastly.

247

00:38:31.020 --> 00:38:49.320

Scott R. Johnson: If you go as well how much more analytical work you do and those you send people out to to figure out where you can hybridize the courts going, you can put them, supposedly in the back area of a tennis court or what's what's pretty analytical stuff you're going to continue with.

248

00:38:50.490 --> 00:38:59.580

Blaize Levitan (Parks): yeah good question I think they were or three questions there the money is to build hopefully was to build dedicated.

249

00:39:00.060 --> 00:39:10.830

Blaize Levitan (Parks): pickle ball courts, which is what we don't have enough of we have added, we have now seven eight what nine courts.

250

00:39:11.670 --> 00:39:20.940

Blaize Levitan (Parks): That are the high court's, these are the courts where people bring their own that and we've added striping and we've now got the Center of Greenwich and the Western side of Greenwich well covered.

251

00:39:21.480 --> 00:39:33.810

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But the funds would be used to specifically add dedicated pickup ball courts and the analysis, so what we're what we're going to do is really go back to scratch look at.

252

00:39:34.320 --> 00:39:45.870

Blaize Levitan (Parks): All of our existing properties are exist, it doesn't have to necessarily be although it's more cost effective, it does not have to be.

253

00:39:48.240 --> 00:39:57.840

Blaize Levitan (Parks): For new courts on an existing court surface, so we are looking at how we can either better us, as you said, existing court surfaces.

254

00:39:58.890 --> 00:40:11.100

Blaize Levitan (Parks): To expand upon those not overlay them, but to expand on the existing surface or look at something completely new and that is not of court surface, this does not have to be.

255

00:40:12.210 --> 00:40:21.600

Blaize Levitan (Parks): US versus them in terms of programming needs, this is not it doesn't have to be a zero sum game here of taking existing space and giving it to someone else.

256

00:40:22.410 --> 00:40:25.920

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And you know we're balancing the needs of all public property.

257

00:40:26.610 --> 00:40:31.260

Blaize Levitan (Parks): What we will do and what we've started to do is look at the demand for pickle ball.

258

00:40:31.530 --> 00:40:43.590

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Look at the analytics look at all of our Court reservation data which we put into the fact sheet, you can see how I mean our our courts here are really well used the thousands and thousands of hours on tennis courts.

259

00:40:45.150 --> 00:40:56.280

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But we also need to take a look at Scott, the there are you know dimensions of pickled ball and you do need some space, I mean you can't just tuck these things in until like the corner of a.

260

00:40:56.880 --> 00:41:08.910

Blaize Levitan (Parks): of an existing court because there's some you know you need run off space there's liability concerns if the sizing isn't to the right standard because someone could easily run into offense or you know whack their hand.

261

00:41:09.840 --> 00:41:20.310

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Because there's not proper sizing as they're running to get the ball same thing with tennis courts and basketball courts you've got to have the right sizing at these locations, you know, because people can get hurt and.

262

00:41:21.570 --> 00:41:29.430

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You know, so this will be the bill, you know asphalt base type style courts that are similar to a tennis court surfaces that we have the hybrids on.

263

00:41:30.720 --> 00:41:32.010

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And that's really.

264

00:41:33.930 --> 00:41:35.010

Blaize Levitan (Parks): that's really it, I mean.

265

00:41:36.780 --> 00:41:51.960

Scott R. Johnson: Transparency wise you're going to come to do more analytics you're going to come up with some recommendations that you think are good and then prior making decisions you're going to have some public important public hearing on it.

266

00:41:53.010 --> 00:42:00.390

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Yes, so for transparency, I mean listen, I think, Joe can say the same thing here, there is no.

267

00:42:00.720 --> 00:42:09.630

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Secret shortlist that really you know this was has been a project that's been in the budget for the last two years Bible street was the location at the time that had been zeroed in on.

268

00:42:10.170 --> 00:42:14.490

Blaize Levitan (Parks): that's the funding that got moved up that's what was in the budget and.

269

00:42:15.240 --> 00:42:22.410

Blaize Levitan (Parks): there's nothing there's no shortlist here, so the process would be that we're going to start from scratch we're going to get some Community members.

270

00:42:23.010 --> 00:42:33.630

Blaize Levitan (Parks): we're going to start looking at sites we're going to go back out there before any decisions are made we're going to notify the key stakeholders, then we're going to hold a public hearing.

271

00:42:34.170 --> 00:42:45.000

Blaize Levitan (Parks): For that public hearing, as I said, we will notify all the key stakeholders notify the relevant our TEAM members in that district, so they can also be included in the process and have their voice heard.

272

00:42:45.630 --> 00:42:54.030

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Then, after the public hearing we have to also have another public meeting with the BT who has to actually release the funds.

273

00:42:56.760 --> 00:42:57.000

Scott R. Johnson: hey.

274

00:42:58.680 --> 00:42:59.010

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Mike.

275

00:42:59.730 --> 00:43:05.460

Joe Siciliano: But by that time it onto a new fad sports, so let me get it done get it done.

276

00:43:07.620 --> 00:43:13.590

Scott R. Johnson: Let me, let me just jump to two or three things that I work in a lot and then.

277

00:43:14.130 --> 00:43:19.350

Michael Bocchino: Being on jump until we pick a while and we don't want pick a book because I just want to say one thing with.

278

00:43:19.410 --> 00:43:27.630

Scott R. Johnson: pick a book I know it countless make whatever comments questions you want, and then really at the android the public comment period.

279

00:43:28.890 --> 00:43:30.060

Scott R. Johnson: Lucy public comments.

280

00:43:31.980 --> 00:43:33.150

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So Mike yeah yeah good question.

281

00:43:34.140 --> 00:43:37.740

Michael Bocchino: Well here's the thing in listening to this.

282

00:43:40.920 --> 00:43:51.900

Michael Bocchino: I never knew what pickle ball was and I don't think that majority of the resonance of the town of Greenwich have an understanding of what pickup ball was is.

283

00:43:53.190 --> 00:44:01.860

Michael Bocchino: I went down to Florida and experience pickup football and I was hooked right away, I was like this is fantastic, this is the way the future.

284

00:44:02.280 --> 00:44:12.840

Michael Bocchino: These are, this is an opportunity for people who have played tennis their entire lives, who get older who decide that you know what I want to play doubles but I can't get the people to get together to play doubles.

285

00:44:13.380 --> 00:44:22.980

Michael Bocchino: Now i'm able to play doubles singles whatever it is, and still do all the Cardio all the exercises and things that I need.

286

00:44:23.520 --> 00:44:29.400

Michael Bocchino: My one thing with this is and it's a great idea of everything that we're trying to do.

287

00:44:29.790 --> 00:44:43.830

Michael Bocchino: But we need to educate the people of grants, we can't take for consideration that they understand already what pickle ball may be, they hear it, and they their minds go wherever they want to be.

288

00:44:44.610 --> 00:45:04.410

Michael Bocchino: Not under really understanding what it is that pickle ball is with that in mind, I think that we would be able to then create a pickle ball Community that's right probably out there with how many people in in the town of Greenwich are 180 days, plus one and in.

289

00:45:05.520 --> 00:45:16.350

Michael Bocchino: Florida who understand the benefits of this particular sport and that it one will actually to pickle ball court.

290

00:45:16.890 --> 00:45:31.590

Michael Bocchino: takes up the area of one tennis court and I can't find enough people who want to get together to play tennis, so this is something that's really worthwhile for everyone, there has to be a plethora of.

291

00:45:32.640 --> 00:45:51.300

Michael Bocchino: availability in the town of grand lodge of areas to accommodate different pickle ball courts, if we can get the Community to understand the benefits of this particular sport, both in a recreational facility, both in.

292

00:45:52.560 --> 00:46:13.080

Michael Bocchino: Health wise for everyone and in a social environment, so I think that if we do this, and again like i'd look at suit and say you have a network, you are the mantra of getting all these Informations out pick her brain and say.

293

00:46:14.310 --> 00:46:29.310

Michael Bocchino: How do we get this out there to this community to number one understand what pickup ball really is and number two the benefits of it because it's not just 60 years and older.

294

00:46:29.700 --> 00:46:38.070

Michael Bocchino: My kids went to Florida they played pickup ball, they were in my my oldest was killing me go Oh, we got to go play pickup i'm like I don't want to get up at.

295

00:46:38.400 --> 00:46:44.460

Michael Bocchino: Six o'clock in the morning because that's the only time that the Court was available at that particular time so.

296

00:46:44.970 --> 00:47:00.270

Michael Bocchino: I think this is a very, very worthwhile and if anybody doesn't think that pickup ball is something that will make this town better vibrant more social, more of a Community environment.

297

00:47:01.380 --> 00:47:12.930

Michael Bocchino: They really need to look at the sport itself so that's all I wanted to say I just think we should really be moving forward with this and really trying to get the best bang for our buck.

298

00:47:14.460 --> 00:47:32.220

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Thanks Mike I think the data in terms of participation does speak for itself and how addictive, it is, we also we strike last year we striped one court to your point about this being like you know, a you know sport for active adults only let's say.

299

00:47:33.480 --> 00:47:49.110

Blaize Levitan (Parks): We striped one chord at Western middle school one tennis Court and the PE teacher reached out and the principal and requested that we strike the remaining courts, because they want to start teaching pickle ball this fall.

300

00:47:50.520 --> 00:47:54.810

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You know, to the middle schoolers and we're hoping that, in addition to.

301

00:47:55.440 --> 00:48:11.460

Blaize Levitan (Parks): That spreading to a younger demographic that will also encourage the other Middle schools to want to strike their courts as well, and start programming for kids across the whole district, and that seems to be a really good sign.

302

00:48:13.050 --> 00:48:24.840

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So thank you does does anyone else have questions about the budget piece of this because there was one other thing that you're probably hearing about for pickle ball and that's laughlin park and I just wanted to make a comment about that.

303

00:48:27.060 --> 00:48:38.100

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Okay, so that's the budget that's one issue that's the hundred 16,000 before the the that's the conditions placed on the funding that's how we got to where we are today and, hopefully, we will.

304

00:48:38.790 --> 00:48:50.370

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Get that across the line on at the our team on may 9 and as Tracy mentioned, there is a there is a motion from the draft motion from the Boc to cut that funding for pickle ball, but.

305

00:48:51.030 --> 00:49:01.350

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Hopefully you know we'll get out there and talk to the rest of your team on the laughlin and it just so you know because there's been some things in the paper so.

306

00:49:02.700 --> 00:49:14.190

Blaize Levitan (Parks): There was a big red sign that was that was placed on the fence in March at laughlin park that said pickle ball only on it was up for.

307

00:49:14.820 --> 00:49:23.250

Blaize Levitan (Parks): A day and that really that really just to say that was really a mistake that shouldn't have been put up like that that shouldn't even have been put up.

308

00:49:25.590 --> 00:49:33.660

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But it has rightfully gotten people very fired up, and you know there's been a lot of opposition to.

309

00:49:34.530 --> 00:49:51.240

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Changes there, it is always a challenge at every public property, as we balance the needs and we've seen this at many of our parks, as you balance the needs of public property between all the key stakeholders involved that one utilize resources obviously pickup ball players.

310

00:49:52.590 --> 00:50:06.960

Blaize Levitan (Parks): would like to see laughlin avenue, be a pickle ball only place, but they also are dealing with a situation where they really do not have enough courts and they don't there's more demand than there is courts and they're also stuck using.

311

00:50:07.860 --> 00:50:22.260

Blaize Levitan (Parks): hybrid courts that are these mics courts and have to bring their own nets and are in kind of a bad spot so but just so we know what's happening with laughlin right now,

because reservations go into effect on may 1 and Sue will correct me if i'm wrong, I see you're nodding your head.

312

00:50:23.760 --> 00:50:30.750

Blaize Levitan (Parks): reservations, you need your tennis card your resident tennis card to reserve courts and may 1 and.

313

00:50:32.010 --> 00:50:39.180

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Starting may 1 that it's going to be the same process that we've been using the same process that we've used last year.

314

00:50:40.800 --> 00:50:57.870

Blaize Levitan (Parks): We if we were going to if we're going to be removing and making any substantive changes like just banning tennis from a location as we've mentioned that would be something that we would want to engage the Community and engage some of the neighbors in.

315

00:50:59.130 --> 00:51:02.460

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And need some more conversation, and obviously.

316

00:51:03.060 --> 00:51:18.270

Blaize Levitan (Parks): lots of people talking about it, we do need to balance the needs of all of our public properties and it is, I will mention this, and I think soo Convention this from doing all of this programming, it is always a challenge to balance the needs of everybody and.

317

00:51:19.650 --> 00:51:30.450

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But may 1 you know, there is no banning of the tennis players from the property what we would like to do is once we get through the budget process.

318

00:51:31.050 --> 00:51:36.630

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Is bring in the key stakeholders from laughlin park neighborhood.

319

00:51:37.500 --> 00:51:45.870

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The tennis players and some pickle ballplayers and have kind of a Community conversation, so people can kind of talk about both sides where we're coming from.

320

00:51:46.320 --> 00:52:03.420

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And maybe map out a compromise, but there is nothing that will be you know forced down or changed upon anyone and nothing is being you know snuck through the cracks or you know anything like that so.

321

00:52:04.920 --> 00:52:11.160

Blaize Levitan (Parks): there's a lot going on there's a lot of cons I think there's a lot of confusion there's a lot of different pieces, this also happens to be happening at the same time as.

322

00:52:11.790 --> 00:52:19.470

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The budget request so it's coming at everyone from a lot of different angles, but if you have any questions about laughlin that's what happened.

323

00:52:20.190 --> 00:52:33.090

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And that is where we're at I mean that really is the main, as you can see from the metrics that there's four there's four pickle ball courts there on that of a hybrid courts it's where a lot of the play happens.

324

00:52:34.740 --> 00:52:36.870

Blaize Levitan (Parks): pretty much all the play for the most part that's outside.

325

00:52:38.370 --> 00:52:41.460

Blaize Levitan (Parks): cristiana because that's the only dedicated court so.

326

00:52:42.810 --> 00:52:48.210

Blaize Levitan (Parks): that's that's where we're at at the moment, so there's going to hopefully be some Community conversation surrounding that and.

327

00:52:49.980 --> 00:52:57.660

Blaize Levitan (Parks): There are no changes in the system at the moment, the only changes with that we did fix the system where you couldn't reserve pickle ball.

328

00:52:58.080 --> 00:53:08.970

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Last year, you could only reserve a tennis Court on the system and that blocked off, to pick a ball courts, but you can now reserve just one pickle ball court in.

329

00:53:09.780 --> 00:53:15.030

Blaize Levitan (Parks): In so you could actually reserve to pickle ball cords instead of just being able to reserve one.

330

00:53:15.750 --> 00:53:24.030

Blaize Levitan (Parks): tennis court, so you could actually only make to reservations there, but now if you're reserving it for pickup ball, which is good happened last year too, it is no change which.

331

00:53:24.600 --> 00:53:34.830

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You can actually just reserve one half of the tennis court and so that should hopefully at least improve the reservation system so it's actually accurate and.

332

00:53:35.970 --> 00:53:43.980

Blaize Levitan (Parks): that's the only change that people will see on may 1 no changes to banning any anybody without a conversation in the Community.

333

00:53:45.360 --> 00:53:45.690

Tracy Freedman: and

334

00:53:46.860 --> 00:53:47.430

Tracy Freedman: i'm sorry.

335

00:53:48.630 --> 00:53:56.940

Tracy Freedman: I just want to add one thing is what I think it's also important terms of education, which I actually didn't know until I read it in on.

336

00:53:57.270 --> 00:54:08.340

Tracy Freedman: The fact sheet that just came out tonight before the meeting is I thought Oh well, that's a great solution, why can't we just take more of these tennis courts and and line them and I didn't realize that people had to bring their own net.

337

00:54:10.410 --> 00:54:21.150

Tracy Freedman: And I think that makes a big difference in terms of like you know, really, you know needing dedicated spaces than having to expect people to come and show up with their own that's to play pick them all in our town.

338

00:54:22.380 --> 00:54:30.960

Blaize Levitan (Parks): yeah I think we can share our spaces is kind of what we've been thinking as we can share some of our spaces, where it makes sense, but it can't be the only.

339

00:54:31.560 --> 00:54:40.110

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Option because it just isn't fair for one two people that can't afford their own that and it's also just you need to have some dedicated facilities.

340

00:54:42.660 --> 00:54:47.490

Scott R. Johnson: Put ballpark what what does it cost to build a new pickup ball core from start.

341

00:54:48.930 --> 00:54:59.760

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The pickle ball court from scratch the cost that we for one pickup ball court, so the quote, that we had gotten probably about 40,000 all in.

342

00:55:00.900 --> 00:55:01.410

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So.

343

00:55:02.700 --> 00:55:18.630

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Now the stripe the existing courts, which is what we've been able to do it's like \$3,000 per Quart restraint that orientate including it up so that that's why we've been doing that and we've done that everywhere that we kind of can, and you can see from the reservation numbers.

344

00:55:19.800 --> 00:55:33.420

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You know, like benny has 4000 hours of rest of active reservations, I mean there's no room to strike that for pickle ball and you know same thing at gramercy park it's these are highly US courts.

345

00:55:34.350 --> 00:55:45.210

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So we're trying to we've we've been adding striping where it it kind of easily make sense and we're also trying to balance that striping geographically throughout town.

346

00:55:46.560 --> 00:55:54.780

Blaize Levitan (Parks): But at some point there's got to be you know at least the programming see there's got to be some dedicated facility for people to play.

347

00:55:56.790 --> 00:56:02.730

Nancy Chapin: i've just one quick question are they looking at the paddle tennis courts at all as a potential.

348

00:56:03.810 --> 00:56:06.780

Nancy Chapin: Because use court.

349

00:56:07.410 --> 00:56:18.000

Blaize Levitan (Parks): It is yep and people do play on it, we do use them, I would let Sue potentially answer this question better than I can they are used, however.

350

00:56:18.750 --> 00:56:28.830

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The surface there's something to do with the surface, not being appropriate and people can get injured playing football and edible quarter to Maybe you can eat you.

351

00:56:29.220 --> 00:56:31.410

Nancy Chapin: Know it's a rough surface you'd have to do.

352

00:56:31.470 --> 00:56:34.110

Nancy Chapin: you'd have to resurface for the summer I would assume.

353

00:56:34.770 --> 00:56:56.460

Sue Snyder: yeah the platform tennis courts where we have paddle tennis played on that they are aluminum courts, and it is you know platform tennis has traditionally been a winter sport, we do

have heaters so that's why we we sell a three month or six month membership over the winter, we did.

354

00:56:57.780 --> 00:57:12.750

Sue Snyder: Several years ago we expanded and open up the courts in the summer for pickup ball play because we didn't even have lines on any pickup ball courts at that time and well, it was nice to have some somewhere for the piccolo players to play.

355

00:57:14.040 --> 00:57:34.800

Sue Snyder: The surface is not ideal and it's certainly it wasn't the right exact size court, but also the surface, was not good for the ball bounce and also it's not the safest surface like if someone were to let's say fall on the summer in shorts they could get.

356

00:57:35.940 --> 00:57:48.570

Sue Snyder: You know abrasion a lot easier than if they were to fall on a regular tennis court in the summer in their shorts so it's it's not it's not ideal, but we, we do have there they're heavily used for paddle tennis.

357

00:57:53.700 --> 00:57:54.900

Scott R. Johnson: anybody else look no.

358

00:57:56.790 --> 00:57:57.480

Sue Bodson: question.

359

00:57:57.750 --> 00:58:07.080

Sue Bodson: So I have a question i'm looking on that chart on miscellaneous is that pen berwick what is the miscellaneous core.

360

00:58:08.970 --> 00:58:09.420

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Any.

361

00:58:10.680 --> 00:58:11.700

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Which one the fact sheet.

362

00:58:12.060 --> 00:58:20.250

Sue Bodson: yeah actually i'm sorry yes it's the miscellaneous I mean I don't see pembers work on there is homework counted in this inventory.

363

00:58:22.140 --> 00:58:24.750

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Let me just pull it back up here and just put pages closer.

364

00:58:27.960 --> 00:58:28.200

Blaize Levitan (Parks): yep.

365

00:58:29.340 --> 00:58:43.470

Sue Bodson: So that alright so pembroke I mean pretty i'm not a tennis player sorry but it's a pretty big court um is there capacity there for both a pickle ball and tennis court.

366

00:58:46.530 --> 00:58:51.960

Blaize Levitan (Parks): That we will love that what I can't answer right off the top my head, maybe joking but.

367

00:58:52.230 --> 00:58:56.160

Joe Siciliano: You see there, there may be because there is a tennis court there but it don't forget it's also.

368

00:58:56.220 --> 00:58:58.140

Sue Bodson: A combination basketball basketball.

369

00:58:58.200 --> 00:59:01.530

Joe Siciliano: Yes, I think I think basketball gets played a lot more than.

370

00:59:01.590 --> 00:59:04.530

Sue Bodson: 10 is sit that location yeah yeah Okay, but.

371

00:59:04.740 --> 00:59:13.770

Joe Siciliano: You know we'll look at it, I mean maybe there's a way to get one in and still gave leave the basketball I don't I don't know, but this is what we're going to go through we're going to go through each location.

372

00:59:14.310 --> 00:59:23.790

Joe Siciliano: we're going to pump them up on a you know photograph you know aerial photographs and we're going to start to look at you know kind of the manipulation of what we can do, knowing that.

373

00:59:24.870 --> 00:59:29.700

Joe Siciliano: The Court said pembroke highly used for basketball, we know that so.

374

00:59:30.300 --> 00:59:30.450

and

375

00:59:31.470 --> 00:59:39.090

Blaize Levitan (Parks): The reason that we really need to go through a thoughtful approach like this, why I think you know we can have the funding in our department has really the best.

376

00:59:39.840 --> 00:59:53.370

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Execution record on capital and out of all the town departments like an 89% execution within two fiscal years but we really need to go through, and also talk to the neighbors because we have everything that's programmed.

377

00:59:54.540 --> 01:00:01.800

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You know, and all the hours that are made when you reserve a chord but as Joe mentioned, and also as as we are hearing from the folks at Bible street.

378

01:00:03.090 --> 01:00:11.760

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You know people also just show up and play, especially basketball, you know so that's why we really need to take this approach and why we don't.

379

01:00:12.510 --> 01:00:20.070

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Have a location, because we want to make sure we go through everything, piece by piece analytically take all the data we have, but then also talk to the neighbors.

380

01:00:21.240 --> 01:00:29.250

Blaize Levitan (Parks): So that we can you know, for example, like basketball so really good example for why we, we need to do that because basketball is often a sport that kids are just going to show up and.

381

01:00:30.630 --> 01:00:34.680

Blaize Levitan (Parks): and playing that no one's going to reserve there's no programming and just going to show up and play so.

382

01:00:40.170 --> 01:00:40.890

Scott R. Johnson: anybody else.

383

01:00:44.550 --> 01:00:48.840

Scott R. Johnson: Let me do three three COMP boring things mostly updates.

384

01:00:50.310 --> 01:00:57.600

Scott R. Johnson: In tune there is anticipated to be a meeting at harbor management, I believe, with.

385

01:00:59.370 --> 01:01:03.300

Scott R. Johnson: Representatives the board of selectmen to discuss.

386

01:01:04.710 --> 01:01:11.850

Scott R. Johnson: Some of the updates on the harbor management proposal and suggestion on dredging.

387

01:01:12.870 --> 01:01:18.540

Scott R. Johnson: There was some discussion between our board and Harvard management, several months ago on.

388

01:01:20.040 --> 01:01:23.610

Scott R. Johnson: US requesting more information on the potential.

389

01:01:25.440 --> 01:01:32.700

Scott R. Johnson: additional conditions that the State wanted to put on our dredging permit and the short of it is that our.

390

01:01:33.810 --> 01:01:45.510

Scott R. Johnson: Marina facilities in the areas that we receive federal dredging money or State Treasury money or even dredging permit be open to all non residents.

391

01:01:46.170 --> 01:01:58.230

Scott R. Johnson: So there will be more on that later nothing's been decided on, but it's a topic that we, as a board and chillin particular said, we want to get a lot more information on that before.

392

01:01:59.130 --> 01:02:16.260

Scott R. Johnson: We can sign off on dredging permit from frequency chart so I was told today that there's going to be mean I believe the harbor management um we're going to discuss this further and discuss the wisdom of seeking more information on that.

393

01:02:17.340 --> 01:02:19.020

Scott R. Johnson: same kind of thing.

394

01:02:20.490 --> 01:02:22.200

Scott R. Johnson: And our last for meeting.

395

01:02:23.250 --> 01:02:42.630

Scott R. Johnson: Mike and others suggested that we try to be contact on in frustration on the lack of moving forward on remediation at Western So the idea came up, which is the same thing on the harbor management issue to contact some of our officials, namely.

396

01:02:43.980 --> 01:02:55.410

Scott R. Johnson: Familiar but also Jim himes and some of our state REPS to try to get information or somehow push some of the state agencies to respond to our questions.

397

01:02:55.830 --> 01:03:08.040

Scott R. Johnson: So Mike knows well the ones that he question middle school where we're not getting responses to our remediation requests so right now it's just again another year, where we just don't know.

398

01:03:09.780 --> 01:03:13.170

Scott R. Johnson: And then the other one is a lot harder management my suggestion was.

399

01:03:14.190 --> 01:03:19.170

Scott R. Johnson: That, and this is just worked for me in the past that sometimes when the bureaucrats don't respond.

400

01:03:19.980 --> 01:03:35.820

Scott R. Johnson: We go to the general counsel's office for that particular department in this case would be army corps and dp to say we're not getting answers to our questions in this case the example is.

401

01:03:37.020 --> 01:03:39.510

Scott R. Johnson: where's the legislative.

402

01:03:41.400 --> 01:03:54.990

Scott R. Johnson: Right and wording that allows the army corps of engineer, for example, and the EP to requires to open up our arena facilities so we didn't get any responses to that.

403

01:03:55.710 --> 01:04:13.200

Scott R. Johnson: And I like I always do as a contact Amina who gets right back to me and says, I think we have to hold off on that type of question phone call and let it sit with the elected officials for a bit.

404

01:04:14.610 --> 01:04:31.290

Scott R. Johnson: I know that will frustrate the Western middle school people because we haven't really gotten much but that's something i'm going to continue to work on, I know I wrote to Steve masters and Fazio and I know that so we're select one of following up on that too, so that that's in the works.

405

01:04:32.310 --> 01:04:34.770

Scott R. Johnson: i'm just briefly.

406

01:04:37.050 --> 01:04:48.240

Scott R. Johnson: The newspaper published a approval of the naming policy on the board of selectmen um you can talk about this really with the foundational that with Sue.

407

01:04:49.200 --> 01:05:01.470

Scott R. Johnson: But that's been important to us because we're going to take try do some fundraising issues on the on the interior of civic Center now that we have a naming rights there, but.

408

01:05:02.640 --> 01:05:21.330

Scott R. Johnson: Part of the discussion did say that it can affect small things, and there are things and they actually named interior rooms, so you know how the hospitals, will have the Josias liana room and various rules based on fundraising and actually some flax.

409

01:05:21.570 --> 01:05:38.850

Scott R. Johnson: Very commonly platform um and so that, technically, is going to be covered by this, so if you want more information on it, and I know we're going to be following carefully go to the packet that was distributed at last.

410

01:05:40.110 --> 01:05:54.030

Scott R. Johnson: week's for select the meeting on subject there's a flow chart that's helpful, so it starts with a submission to the first allotments office.

411

01:05:55.830 --> 01:06:10.740

Scott R. Johnson: That goes to some ministry review within that it goes to the first, a first or selectmen meeting after that meeting, it goes to our tm designated committees.

412

01:06:12.210 --> 01:06:22.590

Scott R. Johnson: So my guess on that would be legislation and rules and maybe our tm parks and REC seven get feedback from those guys and it goes back to the board of selectmen.

413

01:06:23.910 --> 01:06:38.220

Scott R. Johnson: For review and ultimately possible approval now what what's exempted from this is right now is tree memorials like Christmas tree conservancy.

414

01:06:39.240 --> 01:06:45.210

Scott R. Johnson: i'm part of education stuff because that's a separate see separate state controlled a busy.

415

01:06:46.740 --> 01:07:07.260

Scott R. Johnson: street names branch library, and then the bench memorial program that we have at parks and REC so I said to the selectmen when I spoke to them, I said, well, what about if we want to do a name for a.

416

01:07:08.430 --> 01:07:32.520

Scott R. Johnson: scoreboard in the new civic Center, for example, xyz medical group donated a scoreboard on it technically, we have to go through this process, what is not covered, which was my hope and maybe it's for future review is just minor gifs somebody gives \$8,000 to the parks and REC foundation.

417

01:07:33.570 --> 01:07:44.160

Scott R. Johnson: With no no naming situation at all that's still going to be covered by our existing policy which is basically under \$5,000 feel with you.

418

01:07:44.940 --> 01:07:55.980

Scott R. Johnson: In kind we don't review, because our tms tools they don't care awfully that when I see it, but anyway we're gonna we're gonna pursue this more, but the big things.

419

01:07:56.610 --> 01:08:07.410

Scott R. Johnson: So certainly Colin type gifts or the subject to these new regulations which will include a ethics clause for lack of a better description.

420

01:08:07.920 --> 01:08:22.200

Scott R. Johnson: saw that there's the ability to enter an agreement with the giver that says, if the name becomes a problem to the Community from a from an ethical or moral or political standpoint.

421

01:08:23.490 --> 01:08:24.840

Scott R. Johnson: We have the right to.

422

01:08:25.860 --> 01:08:32.460

Scott R. Johnson: to pull the neck ever seen that already happened that branch, but with sakoda give so over.

423

01:08:34.830 --> 01:08:53.940

Scott R. Johnson: Here it's there's also the word significant in there, so the gifts, have to be significant and we don't know what that is and maybe that's a good thing i'm not sure, but in any event, the our team is going to be involved so so we'll have more on that on that later on, so maybe.

424

01:08:55.800 --> 01:09:02.460

Scott R. Johnson: soupn let me segue into just a little bit of the Foundation, because I know you and I were talking about.

425

01:09:03.960 --> 01:09:10.530

Scott R. Johnson: 22 initiative on so new fundraising including interior stuff, by the way.

426

01:09:12.840 --> 01:09:16.920

Scott R. Johnson: We have an approval for the customer success committee.

427

01:09:17.940 --> 01:09:23.100

Scott R. Johnson: To get involved in a very limited way on some of the Interior.

428

01:09:24.810 --> 01:09:31.740

Scott R. Johnson: finishing Omega one day I don't see that being a big deal and we're not going to micromanage that but there could be situations.

429

01:09:32.190 --> 01:09:44.040

Scott R. Johnson: And what one of them was a gift that we were already proposed and that was for a really nice entrance table to be gifted to us from recycled wood.

430

01:09:44.790 --> 01:09:52.350

Scott R. Johnson: I saw I saw the proposal I saw the company and it's beautiful and they had won a country day if you haven't seen that.

431

01:09:53.070 --> 01:10:03.030

Scott R. Johnson: So that's an example of something i'd like to you know continue with i'd like it to be reviewed by at least this board and maybe student civic Center committee because.

432

01:10:03.750 --> 01:10:16.530

Scott R. Johnson: Right now, the interiors of wanting to cover it up today and that's normal, but I think you know we're going to maybe want to get involved in some of that stuff particularly relates to gifting.

433

01:10:17.550 --> 01:10:20.820

Scott R. Johnson: So, so we want to just touch touch on the Foundation, a little bit.

434

01:10:21.120 --> 01:10:34.470

Sue Bodson: Sure, and Scott, I wholly agree with you, I think we have a great opportunity to you know, like a like to say color within the lines see within the lines but but make it a little nicer.

435

01:10:35.070 --> 01:10:42.480

Sue Bodson: and give people the opportunity, support the project, so I totally agree with you on those interiors i'm.

436

01:10:43.440 --> 01:10:47.910

Sue Bodson: So Gentlemen, I spoke this afternoon as and Scott and I did as well about.

437

01:10:48.780 --> 01:11:01.770

Sue Bodson: The very popular commemorative bench program that we have in town and I know you're all familiar with seeing these these benches, as you walk around our parks in our on our beaches, is really popular Program.

438

01:11:02.190 --> 01:11:25.140

Sue Bodson: And what Joe and I have discussed is that I am going to get together with Sue Schneider and Lenore and we are going to develop a sustained bench program where we can provide opportunity to new donors, but establish a consistent quality amongst the benches so there's several bunches.

439

01:11:26.460 --> 01:11:33.510

Sue Bodson: We don't know how many up but there's many benches several benches that need upgrading they they just need to be it's time.

440

01:11:33.750 --> 01:11:44.460

Sue Bodson: For them to be upgraded and we can do that to the older benches, while again giving Community members and organizations, they have the ability and opportunity to recognize.

441

01:11:45.240 --> 01:11:59.940

Sue Bodson: loved ones and honor you know organizations, etc, so we will work on developing sort of an audit of the benches and how and develop a plan, and you know how we can go about.

442

01:12:00.750 --> 01:12:08.310

Sue Bodson: Providing this opportunity people, but again, keep that consistency, so that all the benches are platen and lovely and Nice.

443

01:12:08.790 --> 01:12:09.810

Sue Bodson: So yeah.

444

01:12:10.230 --> 01:12:21.450

Joe Siciliano: Just one, second, we had a lot of conversation today, this afternoon, see benches will come out of the parks department with me and so people from the parks department, the other program was with Sue Schneider oh no you're.

445

01:12:21.780 --> 01:12:22.230

Sue Bodson: Fine.

446

01:12:22.620 --> 01:12:24.180

Joe Siciliano: I know we have we have tons of conversation.

447

01:12:24.270 --> 01:12:42.090

Sue Bodson: So sorry, so the bench program i'm working with Joe on the the bang, for your buck fireworks and I, this is something that Sue has developed and it's a great program and what we are going, what I would like to do with you Sue is develop a parallel.

448

01:12:43.320 --> 01:12:55.440

Sue Bodson: effort that will complement your the great work that you've set forward on it and and maybe you know hit some larger organizations and some corporations and some other.

449

01:12:55.920 --> 01:13:08.100

Sue Bodson: Bigger donors that maybe we want to get involved in support the bang for the buck firework program, so I think that's what we sorry Charlie got you're totally right totally got confused on.

450

01:13:08.130 --> 01:13:10.080

Sue Bodson: Twitter um it happens.

451

01:13:11.700 --> 01:13:29.130

Sue Bodson: So yeah so that's Those are the two things that I would like to do for the Foundation in the short term, but like Scott said, in the long term, you know the whole reason why we are we've done all this housekeeping for the Foundation is so that we can provide.

452

01:13:30.330 --> 01:13:38.340

Sue Bodson: Support to parks and REC through the Foundation so budgetary support raise awareness in the Community.

453

01:13:39.210 --> 01:13:48.570

Sue Bodson: You know just listening to the conversations about the knuckleball community and the pickup ball courts and i've been getting a bunch of texts and emails from people.

454

01:13:48.840 --> 01:13:55.410

Sue Bodson: You know, again my mean my head is spinning here there's I think there's a great opportunity for the Foundation going forward so.

455

01:13:56.910 --> 01:14:03.990

Scott R. Johnson: that's it, so I want to again we can't we're not going to open up to public comment until the end, so I want to give.

456

01:14:05.220 --> 01:14:10.620

Scott R. Johnson: I want to go to Nancy if that's okay with you because you've been patiently waiting now for two or three meetings to.

457

01:14:11.640 --> 01:14:15.810

Scott R. Johnson: To talk about some of your things that are going on, so so is that okay to do it now where you.

458

01:14:16.110 --> 01:14:20.550

Nancy Chapin: Are at that time, and it is a long agenda i'll be brief.

459

01:14:21.780 --> 01:14:24.780

Nancy Chapin: First i'm going to mute my husband.

460

01:14:26.040 --> 01:14:27.840

Nancy Chapin: So sorry about that.

461

01:14:29.340 --> 01:14:44.910

Nancy Chapin: But I first want to just thank everyone who made the beauty budget item for the minimum plan possible blaze was huge Miriam our liaison can't say enough positive things because I think she really did a strong advocacy for us.

462

01:14:46.650 --> 01:14:50.460

Nancy Chapin: And i'll just talk briefly on the parks, that you know.

463

01:14:51.780 --> 01:14:54.300

Nancy Chapin: Darren has organized the.

464

01:14:55.590 --> 01:15:00.600

Nancy Chapin: Group on arbor day April 29 there's going to be over 100 brunswick kids so it's.

465

01:15:00.870 --> 01:15:09.630

Nancy Chapin: it's both recreation i'd like to share that you know our passive parks are providing great recreation you've got 100 brunswick kids coming working in three different parks and they're doing.

466

01:15:10.410 --> 01:15:20.160

Nancy Chapin: plantings basic work, so I just always think it's great to point that out, I see that pete Yuri has been added to a panelist so i'm going to jump right in because I think.

467

01:15:20.490 --> 01:15:28.170

Nancy Chapin: I won't spend a lot of time talking about parks and trees, but really what we wanted to get before the board tonight to talk about.

468

01:15:28.770 --> 01:15:37.440

Nancy Chapin: The launching of these two friends groups, we had a great meeting with Joe, thank you for that and Dr Greg Kramer as well and.

469

01:15:38.040 --> 01:15:56.430

Nancy Chapin: just talking about how really the goal of these friends groups is to be supportive of the parks department, we feel the timing is right and i'm going to let pete kind of take over on this because he's been working a lot with.

470

01:15:57.480 --> 01:16:06.510

Nancy Chapin: benny we were together on that vinnie park Advisory Committee and the logical next step, there was to launch your friends group.

471

01:16:07.230 --> 01:16:09.900

Scott R. Johnson: But natural before we get to that they're.

472

01:16:11.220 --> 01:16:13.290

Scott R. Johnson: going to propose your friends group for.

473

01:16:14.040 --> 01:16:25.950

Nancy Chapin: four parts will be there's a few friends groups that were proposing, which is one for the pomerance tuchman and pineal and we have this group that's been working.

474

01:16:27.180 --> 01:16:40.890

Nancy Chapin: and doing a lot of onto your products, we really need to expand get more representation without the town and just really I mean a friends group is just there to advocate.

475

01:16:41.490 --> 01:16:50.760

Nancy Chapin: To again why a master plan is so important because we have all these people who are energized now you know the park is getting so much use after.

476

01:16:51.300 --> 01:17:02.580

Nancy Chapin: Have it with a pandemic and the master plan will help focus this energy, and I think it's really important that that goes through.

477

01:17:03.180 --> 01:17:13.830

Nancy Chapin: Our team Member Tracy freeman I talked to her today she's going to be my great ally and helping me navigate the are tm For those of you are thinking about budget items.

478

01:17:14.640 --> 01:17:23.490

Nancy Chapin: When you serve in the air tm often by the time you meet that may meaning you're being know how the boats going to go, so if anyone's thinking about.

479

01:17:23.880 --> 01:17:31.110

Nancy Chapin: kind of advocate for any of the budget items hit those committees, you know, trying to attend committee meetings attend district meetings.

480

01:17:31.590 --> 01:17:40.680

Nancy Chapin: hear their concerns and start advocating at that level which I intend to do, I can't attend the VOC meeting, but on this Thursday.

481

01:17:41.100 --> 01:17:57.420

Nancy Chapin: But that will be telling us to what items they're proposing to cut and Tracy I she was so helpful, so thank you for that today So yes, so Scott, just to be clear, we have two friends groups Yuri is part of both so not just benny but.

482

01:17:58.830 --> 01:18:09.030

Nancy Chapin: The piney them pomerance tuchman as well, so we did talk to Joe explain what the goals were what the mission is you know, our hope is.

483

01:18:09.570 --> 01:18:23.970

Nancy Chapin: And I talked to Scott, as well, that was recommended as the next step and pete did as well to say you know how, how do we get before the board and just make them get them to understand what what we're looking to do you.

484

01:18:24.900 --> 01:18:31.110

Scott R. Johnson: Are you going to submit to us um any documentation, or you to keep it informal.

485

01:18:31.920 --> 01:18:32.880

Scott R. Johnson: or formal.

486

01:18:33.660 --> 01:18:37.470

Nancy Chapin: You know, really, what the board, would like to see, I mean.

487

01:18:38.820 --> 01:18:46.320

Nancy Chapin: You know, with Joe just saying you know this is there's other friends groups forming and you know we have models to follow the Greenwich.

488

01:18:47.280 --> 01:18:53.850

Nancy Chapin: Friends a garage point is a great model that we're following they and people talk more because he's really reached out to them and.

489

01:18:54.270 --> 01:19:11.400

Nancy Chapin: we've looked at their bylaws, and so I guess I would leave it to this board how formal do you want us to be in our presentation to you, if I understand it, that we just really just want to make you aware, and if people want to get involved in these groups.

490

01:19:12.690 --> 01:19:22.260

Nancy Chapin: Please let us know you know, the more the more people involved, the better and also just we're looking to be transparent and.

491

01:19:23.760 --> 01:19:40.680

Nancy Chapin: Make it, you know we could you know, obviously a friends group doesn't need board approval it's just a separate entity but we it's really important to us that we kind of are aligned with the park staff this board in our direction and what we're doing.

492

01:19:41.910 --> 01:19:50.700

Nancy Chapin: We think because pete and I have been working with staff, I certainly have learned a lot on how best to work with staff.

493

01:19:52.050 --> 01:19:56.880

Nancy Chapin: That it's important to come before you and just be be transparent.

494

01:19:58.650 --> 01:20:10.650

Scott R. Johnson: Try like and I added to you and empty how you could talk to utilize the Foundation i'm again there are limits, in other words, it could.

495

01:20:11.310 --> 01:20:20.340

Scott R. Johnson: Possibly find itself in some documentation, so what we want to avoid is just money being gifted to the Foundation.

496

01:20:20.970 --> 01:20:30.870

Scott R. Johnson: Without a specific earmark for a project that we know, has been approved so just to play the word game, we don't want to accept.

497

01:20:31.680 --> 01:20:43.740

Scott R. Johnson: A gift for friends of group to do you know, an amusement park in in topic so that's that's that's good yeah we do have to kind of a balancing between the energy.

498

01:20:44.250 --> 01:20:57.660

Scott R. Johnson: And the legal requirements, the foundation because, again, too, so everyone knows once a gift is made if it's not utilized because it's not approved let's just say by town approval for its purpose.

499

01:20:58.740 --> 01:21:06.240

Scott R. Johnson: That money if it goes back to the donor it's treated as ordinary income, so we don't want to run into that situation.

500

01:21:06.720 --> 01:21:08.880

Nancy Chapin: So i'm going to give a couple of great examples.

501

01:21:09.960 --> 01:21:20.130

Nancy Chapin: That may be helpful, is so for benny it's easier there's a master plan so not all the items in the master plan were completed.

502

01:21:21.210 --> 01:21:39.120

Nancy Chapin: But if a friends group could maybe raise funds and, obviously, anything that would be not aligned with parks, it would be you know it has to go through the parks department anything we would do right it, you know the parks department is the ultimate governance for these properties so.

503

01:21:41.100 --> 01:21:48.060

Nancy Chapin: i'll use a better example, maybe for pomerance you know we have this sunken garden that's really fallen into disrepair.

504

01:21:48.690 --> 01:22:00.870

Nancy Chapin: We would go through the park let's say we would say all right, we would like, as a friends group to try to raise funds to restore this garden, it would come first, we would work with Greg.

505

01:22:01.860 --> 01:22:10.860

Nancy Chapin: Kramer I would get go through the approval process, the other work that we do I mean there's a system that's working really well are getting permits through.

506

01:22:12.150 --> 01:22:15.510

Nancy Chapin: Aaron so we have something that we want to work through we.

507

01:22:15.510 --> 01:22:22.140

Nancy Chapin: present here, and he puts together a work permit, so I think, maybe that helps clarify a little bit.

508

01:22:23.220 --> 01:22:35.460

Scott R. Johnson: yeah and then you know you're gonna you're gonna call found it the Foundation people, whatever that is that's a time and say this is something we're thinking about doesn't make sense, so so you know we've had that discussion that's good.

509

01:22:36.510 --> 01:22:43.050

Scott R. Johnson: i'm not overly worried about it so so you are Peter do you want to continue with your.

510

01:22:44.070 --> 01:22:45.030

Scott R. Johnson: component of this.

511

01:22:45.480 --> 01:22:46.290

Peter Uhry: Are you sure.

512

01:22:46.560 --> 01:22:47.520

Peter Uhry: Can you hear me.

513

01:22:48.000 --> 01:22:48.540

Yes.

514

01:22:50.310 --> 01:22:51.570

Scott R. Johnson: i'm muta.

515

01:22:52.590 --> 01:22:52.950

Peter Uhry: Okay.

516

01:22:56.010 --> 01:22:58.050

Peter Uhry: Nancy said at all and.

517

01:22:59.490 --> 01:23:01.530

Peter Uhry: So let's talk pick a ball smart now.

518

01:23:03.870 --> 01:23:05.670

Peter Uhry: The answer is.

519

01:23:06.990 --> 01:23:28.140

Peter Uhry: I had a very good conversation with Scott and he made it very clear and I think set a marvelous guideline that if there is something of significance that will benefit the parks, then the Foundation can come to play, but, in this day and age, where most of us are not doing.

520

01:23:28.680 --> 01:23:30.390

Peter Uhry: A good job deductions on our.

521

01:23:30.390 --> 01:23:31.440

Joe Siciliano: taxes for.

522

01:23:31.920 --> 01:23:47.940

Peter Uhry: Small contributions like \$25 to audubon or or Red Cross, or whatever you might be dying, then there should be a separate functioning entity and that entity can be.

523

01:23:49.290 --> 01:23:55.050

Peter Uhry: A separate sort of management kind of account so.

524

01:23:56.310 --> 01:24:17.310

Peter Uhry: But i'm ahead of myself, let me retreat and say my purpose and and i'm speaking for Nancy to is that we work together on vinnie park and we came to understand that parks are hardly a static situation that they're constantly in evolution they're constantly changing.

525

01:24:18.330 --> 01:24:24.180

Peter Uhry: Land know the banks upon or roading trees are falling down over storm.

526

01:24:25.500 --> 01:24:26.760

Peter Uhry: Plants die.

527

01:24:28.170 --> 01:24:37.170

Peter Uhry: All sorts of things are happening and we recognize soon that the idea of having a friends group.

528

01:24:38.250 --> 01:24:47.280

Peter Uhry: To help improve the parks would be important to have it's not a new concept benny part kind of friends group back in the 1980s.

529

01:24:48.420 --> 01:24:54.570

Peter Uhry: Beginning park at a friends group Nancy kaplan, who is the leader of your.

530

01:24:55.770 --> 01:25:06.540

Peter Uhry: Committee and board at one time also had a friends group organizing and working so what we want to do is to.

531

01:25:07.740 --> 01:25:18.660

Peter Uhry: let you know that we are forming a friends group for the park and we want to form one for pomerance to the conference by needham tuchman group.

532

01:25:19.680 --> 01:25:22.620

Peter Uhry: There, a different levels of development.

533

01:25:23.910 --> 01:25:24.960

Peter Uhry: benny itself.

534

01:25:26.070 --> 01:25:31.860

Peter Uhry: is much further along in terms of having a master plan we've executed, a lot of the.

535

01:25:33.030 --> 01:25:44.640

Peter Uhry: ideas are in the Mexico Max masterplan there are other elements that yet need to be executed so that's one thing conferences, yet to be formed Nancy has been very.

536

01:25:45.330 --> 01:26:00.030

Peter Uhry: diligent and trying to get monies dedicated to the idea of creating a master plan so we're in different stages, but the concepts are the same and it happens that in both areas we have some.

537

01:26:00.690 --> 01:26:13.170

Peter Uhry: very dedicated volunteers interested in improving the parks, so the time is terrific for doing this, so what we went to do is we talk to.

538

01:26:15.480 --> 01:26:17.100

Peter Uhry: Do great Kramer about.

539

01:26:18.300 --> 01:26:28.590

Peter Uhry: One idea of what might we use as a model for for me and friends group and we simply found in the friends of Greenwich point something that.

540

01:26:29.160 --> 01:26:41.880

Peter Uhry: was a charter by laws and we somewhat plagiarize that modified it a little bit for for been a we haven't really served done that for pomerance yet, is what I was saying before.

541

01:26:42.180 --> 01:26:50.670

Peter Uhry: we're different stages of the game and in terms of doing that so we're at a point where we're going to go ahead and form.

542

01:26:52.200 --> 01:27:06.810

Peter Uhry: A group of friends group for vinnie Park, we hope that what it will do is provide information for the staff of the parks department let's recognize that what a friends group should do is to be advocates.

543

01:27:07.410 --> 01:27:13.350

Peter Uhry: For improvement on the other hand, we recognize and it's important to recognize her friends group.

544

01:27:14.640 --> 01:27:38.070

Peter Uhry: really is there to throw ideas out if volunteers can legitimately be involved in the process of helping at work, I think that's Darren wigglesworth uses a great word, he says that's part of ownership and and let people feel like they own their part and that's a good thing to do so.

545

01:27:39.300 --> 01:27:54.120

Peter Uhry: The long and short of this is we just want you to be aware that friends groups are going to develop and i'll stop there and say that's where we're going and and welcome your input and ideas to support.

546

01:27:55.170 --> 01:27:56.280

Scott R. Johnson: Your historically.

547

01:27:57.420 --> 01:27:59.280

Scott R. Johnson: The first step is a mission statement.

548

01:28:00.540 --> 01:28:17.250

Scott R. Johnson: yeah and then ultimately this is up to you guys but winds up being relevant is bylaws those how how how you govern or not they're really matter, but if you're your own 501 C three, as you know, it's a whole set of different things i'm.

549

01:28:18.660 --> 01:28:26.790

Scott R. Johnson: Question point conservancy and friends of course point had been around for a long time, there are no, they have a very formal set of documents.

550

01:28:27.480 --> 01:28:44.670

Scott R. Johnson: So we encourage friends friends of groups strongly and I can say we've really been living with one for me for a number of years, it may not be formal but it works tremendously well, in fact, the Foundation, you know gave not insignificant money.

551

01:28:45.930 --> 01:28:55.320

Scott R. Johnson: To help further its purpose so just send us the documents I mean I we encourage it tremendously I don't think we've ever discouraged of Friends of group.

552

01:28:56.640 --> 01:29:12.900

Scott R. Johnson: However, very recently, I will tell you two examples one, so you are involved with me a little bit on in Glenville improvement quotes Association and the other one was for the improvement of the.

553

01:29:14.010 --> 01:29:24.870

Scott R. Johnson: poster on quarter and if they just never happened in wasn't wasn't formalized and it was for projects ultimately that were never even proposed or approved.

554

01:29:25.560 --> 01:29:38.940

Scott R. Johnson: So, but with your ideas and your focus i'm not particularly worried, I mean, these are things that nancy's been working on for quite some time and I know you were at the end so.

555

01:29:39.600 --> 01:29:48.780

Scott R. Johnson: My personal recommendation is to develop a mission, a mission statement and, ultimately, whatever documents you want to do it is good to see.

556

01:29:50.730 --> 01:29:52.320

Scott R. Johnson: You know, see the basics.

557

01:29:54.780 --> 01:30:03.570

Peter Uhry: Finally, as far as i'm concerned to to share anything we put together, so you all are informed but what's going on.

558

01:30:04.890 --> 01:30:09.150

Peter Uhry: The more you understand what we're trying to do.

559

01:30:10.590 --> 01:30:21.360

Peter Uhry: It just develops the relationship, I have to tell you that we would never have achieved as much as we did in benny park had it not been for the.

560

01:30:22.050 --> 01:30:33.540

Peter Uhry: spirited cooperation, we got from the parks department staff they're really terrific from the get go and we are able to achieve one heck of a lot.

561

01:30:35.220 --> 01:30:43.380

Peter Uhry: In a period of about a year and a half, and I think we're beginning to see some of that same cooperation at work done in pomerance.

562

01:30:43.920 --> 01:30:57.780

Peter Uhry: And so friends groups, the use of volunteers at augments where it's possible and we have as Nancy said they're like 75 brunswick kids who are volunteering doing a community service day on Friday.

563

01:30:58.950 --> 01:31:08.070

Peter Uhry: We have all sorts of volunteer opportunities and neat and if you have some time and a view and want to spend.

564

01:31:09.300 --> 01:31:20.400

Peter Uhry: Some time out in the parks and I welcome you to do that and we can find I ever did I stood up in front of the rma retirements association this morning.

565

01:31:20.880 --> 01:31:34.200

Peter Uhry: And I call for woodland warriors and said i'd like to know at have a source in the in the room, and I said, you know you guys need to get out and and help us do some.

566

01:31:35.280 --> 01:31:52.290

Peter Uhry: clearing of trails and to take care of some wet areas or in some of our town parks and we have an opportunity to help, and I said you're all looking very lazy sitting out there, looking at me and so why not just sort of get going and sort of.

567

01:31:53.640 --> 01:31:54.330

Peter Uhry: Come and help.

568

01:31:55.500 --> 01:32:02.190

Peter Uhry: People want to help people love our parks or darn lucky to have them, so this is what a friends group does.

569

01:32:03.090 --> 01:32:09.810

Scott R. Johnson: Well, thanks, thank you, Peter, as I know, I know you've already done a lot um any questions on this from.

570

01:32:11.310 --> 01:32:12.900

Scott R. Johnson: panelists to Nancy or appear.

571

01:32:15.900 --> 01:32:16.830

Scott R. Johnson: might do you want to.

572

01:32:17.130 --> 01:32:17.580

Peter Uhry: get to make.

573

01:32:17.610 --> 01:32:27.420

Peter Uhry: more cynical and then make one pickle ball observation which I to actually that there I think are important one, Google us pick a ball.

574

01:32:27.990 --> 01:32:41.520

Peter Uhry: And look at some of the videos and you'll get an immediate sense of what the game is which Mike was talking about, and had the experience in Florida, and the second thing is the importance of laughlin i'm a PIC of all enthusiastic, by the way.

575

01:32:41.580 --> 01:32:42.210

Scott R. Johnson: Why not.

576

01:32:43.620 --> 01:32:44.160

Nancy Chapin: yeah.

577

01:32:44.430 --> 01:32:45.360

Scott R. Johnson: you're jumping.

578

01:32:46.500 --> 01:32:56.580

Scott R. Johnson: On us we've got 46 people on our attendee list, I want to talk about pickle blog so let's let's finish our regular agenda, first, I appreciate your energy.

579

01:32:58.140 --> 01:33:00.270

Scott R. Johnson: My pitino do you I know there's not much on the.

580

01:33:00.270 --> 01:33:00.900

hybrid.

581

01:33:01.980 --> 01:33:04.260

Scott R. Johnson: Just I hit that one quickly.

582

01:33:05.730 --> 01:33:10.380

Michael Bocchino: Sure um there really isn't much movement right now, except that the.

583

01:33:12.180 --> 01:33:16.980

Michael Bocchino: ETA to prove some some funds for us to move forward with.

584

01:33:18.420 --> 01:33:27.840

Michael Bocchino: Some other you know designs, as far as an alternative rank basically right now what we're doing is they're looking at alternative sites.

585

01:33:28.860 --> 01:33:42.270

Michael Bocchino: We are vetting those they will be vetted and decided upon we're also looking at the existing site there's really not much to discuss right now, as far as the rank, unfortunately.

586

01:33:43.170 --> 01:33:56.100

Michael Bocchino: But I will say that the committee is very, very much in tune with what's being presented in front of us, and the fact that we need to move forward.

587

01:33:56.460 --> 01:34:13.590

Michael Bocchino: Whether it is dependent upon a an alternative temporary skating rink or the existing skating rink needs to be determined so there's been some miss information that's been put out there.

588

01:34:14.610 --> 01:34:29.490

Michael Bocchino: But we're we're on top of everything on working with the selectmen his office to make sure that when we pull the trigger this thing will be done in a timely fashion and that's, the best thing that we can offer.

589

01:34:30.390 --> 01:34:41.100

Michael Bocchino: For the town of grant and for the skating community, and we need to also understand that it's not only the skating Community the baseball community and neighborhood community.

590

01:34:41.550 --> 01:34:45.360

Michael Bocchino: Everybody that's involved in this so we're doing our due diligence and making.

591

01:34:45.360 --> 01:34:52.020

Michael Bocchino: sure that we have the right answers for everyone right now we're in that kind of limbo.

592

01:34:53.070 --> 01:34:56.070

Michael Bocchino: Where we're just waiting to get the feedback.

593

01:34:57.090 --> 01:35:04.770

Michael Bocchino: And look at some alternative sites that have been presented to us so at that point there's really nothing left left to be discussed.

594

01:35:06.570 --> 01:35:17.490

Scott R. Johnson: I like, so I think we should open it up let's let's let's open up with the easy stuff first if to public comment, which basically is.

595

01:35:18.000 --> 01:35:35.400

Scott R. Johnson: on any attendees you can raise your hand let's start with our non pickup artist tennis court questions and then we'll go to those so, are there any caster attendee questions on something other than a football.

596

01:35:36.060 --> 01:35:36.870

Scott R. Johnson: or tennis courts.

597

01:35:39.000 --> 01:35:44.040

Scott R. Johnson: Which which is fine, I just i'm just trying to focus on the energy here.

598

01:35:45.990 --> 01:35:46.800

Scott R. Johnson: um.

599

01:35:50.130 --> 01:35:57.810

Scott R. Johnson: i'm not going to know what their questions are so let's let's I guess let's just for sake of simplicity let's just open it up to.

600

01:35:59.760 --> 01:36:03.570

Scott R. Johnson: To the public and i've seen.

601

01:36:05.640 --> 01:36:17.730

Scott R. Johnson: Christine o'brian i've seen star for Sue baker so let's start with your since you're a liaison soon, can you recognize so she's a liaison so can we recognize her right now.

602

01:36:21.420 --> 01:36:25.140

Sue Baker: hi thanks got a couple of things up for the good of the order.

603

01:36:25.770 --> 01:36:37.530

Sue Baker: Remember, we were going to invite pet Tesco, to present the open space committee report for the conservation Commission and she said she's happy to do that anytime after June.

604

01:36:38.010 --> 01:36:45.480

Sue Baker: And it would be really effective, it could it could be an in person meeting and she does have some.

605

01:36:46.380 --> 01:36:58.650

Sue Baker: electronics, you know things that she could post and show, and I was thinking last year in June, we met and bending maybe we could meet at the cottage and then she could use the big screen in that so you might want to.

606

01:36:59.220 --> 01:37:05.490

Sue Baker: She and I were talking about it this week and Nancy and I could follow up with her that was that was one thing that I wanted.

607

01:37:05.790 --> 01:37:12.900

Sue Baker: us to think about going forward anytime after June, ideally, if it could be in person The other thing I was going to say.

608

01:37:13.500 --> 01:37:22.140

Sue Baker: You know, ironically adele title and I were the Co presidents of the Friends of Greenwich point when we became incorporated as a not for profit.

609

01:37:22.500 --> 01:37:42.120

Sue Baker: Prior to that, and Joe will remember, because we were on it together, it was called the branch point committee at that grandma kitchell put together advisory to the first selectman and when we became a not for profit, we did our own fundraising through membership through donations.

610

01:37:43.170 --> 01:37:54.660

Sue Baker: years and that was in the 90s, I do remember at the time the selectmen said yeah like I need another friends group, but that turned out not to be true, they did and it's as Peter said.

611

01:37:54.960 --> 01:38:17.250

Sue Baker: Our our diagram diagrams and our paradigm to follow is really a good one, as a not for profit and our fundraising was through membership and gifts and we got one really big gift

restricted, and it was like 280 \$3,000 and that has generated enough money for us all these years to in properly.

612

01:38:17.280 --> 01:38:27.930

Sue Baker: invested the answers tense enabled us to go forward so that's a good good thing to look and nothing to do with the Foundation, we never put our money in the Foundation and get it back out that way.

613

01:38:28.440 --> 01:38:30.510

Sue Baker: um The other thing I was.

614

01:38:30.720 --> 01:38:33.000

Sue Baker: going to kind of mention.

615

01:38:35.670 --> 01:38:36.480

Sue Baker: I keep getting.

616

01:38:37.830 --> 01:38:48.210

Sue Baker: Inquiries about the difficulty, people are having with their beach passes online that need his voice message is about.

617

01:38:51.570 --> 01:38:58.620

Sue Baker: And it isn't for me, because then you know i'm so damn old that gentleman and need to just start automatically renew me because they know I couldn't do online.

618

01:38:58.950 --> 01:39:04.770

Sue Baker: But the other thing is that people say when they upload what they requested there's no feedback.

619

01:39:05.160 --> 01:39:14.340

Sue Baker: So you have no knowledge if you've done it accurately or, if you have everything that you need so i'm just wondering if that's worth looking into when you all are in the office.

620

01:39:14.700 --> 01:39:22.830

Sue Baker: tomorrow and then wonder the same laughingly Joe laughed about pickup ball and he said something about the next trend sport.

621

01:39:23.370 --> 01:39:41.970

Sue Baker: And then It reminded me of how much we went through a few years ago, just like with bit football for what football not not the extent but oh my God what an ordeal anyhow thanks guys again for a good meeting thanks for covering so much that is my foot pet Tesco bug the beach pass.

622

01:39:42.540 --> 01:39:43.920

Sue Baker: that's awesome so so.

623

01:39:44.640 --> 01:39:46.950

Scott R. Johnson: i'd like to do that, and I also like to do.

624

01:39:48.360 --> 01:39:53.820

Scott R. Johnson: A real live meeting at the cottage so maybe maybe our June me.

625

01:39:55.260 --> 01:39:59.220

Scott R. Johnson: I do have to ask you one question open a shop clubs sent out.

626

01:40:00.570 --> 01:40:20.280

Scott R. Johnson: memos to its Members want encouraging the dredging the Doc which is fine, but the other one was to encourage i'm just curious if you know the history on this briefly encouraging breaching the causeway to allow natural inflow and outflow out by the.

627

01:40:20.550 --> 01:40:21.570

Sue Baker: next meet point.

628

01:40:23.250 --> 01:40:25.470

Scott R. Johnson: Oh me I saw that you were they were talking about.

629

01:40:25.590 --> 01:40:26.430

Scott R. Johnson: Had todd's point.

630

01:40:26.790 --> 01:40:29.220

Sue Baker: No, they don't meet point in the new construction.

631

01:40:29.220 --> 01:40:30.180

Scott R. Johnson: soccer OK.

632

01:40:31.080 --> 01:40:37.800

Sue Baker: OK, I can tell you all about that offline it just this okay okay take care, and thanks.

633

01:40:37.950 --> 01:40:41.040

Sue Baker: Thank you me and i'll stay on to hear what else.

634

01:40:41.040 --> 01:40:43.020

Scott R. Johnson: happens, we always acknowledge you Thank you.

635

01:40:43.230 --> 01:40:44.130

Sue Baker: Thank you, thanks guys.

636

01:40:44.190 --> 01:40:48.570

Scott R. Johnson: um so I see I see I just put down the order here.

637

01:40:50.040 --> 01:40:52.500

Scott R. Johnson: Christina o'brian or Christina Brian you want.

638

01:40:54.060 --> 01:40:55.080

Scott R. Johnson: To you want to.

639

01:40:58.410 --> 01:41:03.420

Scott R. Johnson: Do you want to recognize her okay christy are you sound like you're legit and ready to go.

640

01:41:04.980 --> 01:41:06.390

Scott R. Johnson: So go ahead, Chris down.

641

01:41:06.840 --> 01:41:19.020

christinobrien: hey i'm I am a laughlin avenue resident, and I was interested to hear earlier when you talked about how you were going to reach out to everyone, about these projects.

642

01:41:19.380 --> 01:41:30.900

christinobrien: Because it feels like this is the second time in two and a half years that we've had an issue with parks and REC trying to do something in the park that there's been no outreach to the people that live in the neighborhood.

643

01:41:32.790 --> 01:41:40.170

christinobrien: That parks and REC wants to use our space to generate revenue, but isn't interested in what the neighbors have to think i'm.

644

01:41:42.180 --> 01:41:45.300

christinobrien: The paddle I don't think it's necessary to take away tennis.

645

01:41:46.380 --> 01:41:52.800

christinobrien: From the neighborhood I don't understand why it's not possible to do continue the way it's going.

646

01:41:53.190 --> 01:42:04.020

christinobrien: And I understand today that people have to bring their own nets, we have that little green shed if you lock the power courts I don't understand why can't lock the shed and put something in the shed maybe.

647

01:42:05.550 --> 01:42:18.210

christinobrien: And I haven't heard anything about using anything in the eastern side of town to put pickle ball over there, except for the civic Center which is now going to be closed for God knows how long.

648

01:42:19.980 --> 01:42:22.770

christinobrien: So I don't think it's necessary to take away our tennis courts.

649

01:42:24.750 --> 01:42:25.680

christinobrien: that's what I have to say.

650

01:42:27.060 --> 01:42:27.840

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, so I see.

651

01:42:29.010 --> 01:42:30.090

Scott R. Johnson: My name stauffer.

652

01:42:37.500 --> 01:42:39.720

Scott R. Johnson: Think if you're on mute yourself three oh.

653

01:42:41.430 --> 01:42:41.910

Scott R. Johnson: Here we go.

654

01:42:42.330 --> 01:42:49.110

stauffer: hi i'm Valerie stauffer i'm the selectmen nominating committee liaison with you so i'm watching in.

655

01:42:49.620 --> 01:42:58.770

stauffer: I was interested in your discussion about setting up friends groups which sounds terrific I just want to point out and i'm sure some of you must know.

656

01:42:59.760 --> 01:43:17.460

stauffer: The situation because, as you know, gifts over \$5,000 must go through the rpm and I think the rationale is just so that it's spent the way the town wants it spent but i'm not quite sure how you actually.

657

01:43:18.870 --> 01:43:22.560

stauffer: work this out when you do have friends groups with donations.

658

01:43:24.450 --> 01:43:26.190

Joe Siciliano: So Scott, I can talk, talk about this.

659

01:43:27.570 --> 01:43:38.160

Joe Siciliano: When when when when we reach the amount we go to the ATM for gift acceptance, so when we reach the limit we put together a resolution and we go to your damn i've done hundreds of.

660

01:43:38.850 --> 01:43:56.310

Joe Siciliano: trees benches boost park buying park gifts swimming pool you know those types of things, so it depends on the structure, but we know what the limitations are and we would take that gift through the rts gift acceptance process right.

661

01:43:56.520 --> 01:43:58.260

stauffer: yeah just want to point that out.

662

01:43:59.640 --> 01:44:00.150

stauffer: Thank you.

663

01:44:01.170 --> 01:44:01.830

Scott R. Johnson: Thanks sorry.

664

01:44:03.510 --> 01:44:04.170

Scott R. Johnson: i'm.

665

01:44:05.850 --> 01:44:08.850

Scott R. Johnson: looks like Ernest schirmer.

666

01:44:11.700 --> 01:44:12.480

Scott R. Johnson: grass.

667

01:44:13.110 --> 01:44:16.410

Ernst Schirmer: I think I should be unmuted so first of all.

668

01:44:17.220 --> 01:44:28.050

Ernst Schirmer: I would like to really express my appreciation to the board and parks and recs in general, because if somebody is willing to take a 20 3040 year view.

669

01:44:28.380 --> 01:44:41.040

Ernst Schirmer: of what is happening in our parks and recreation in Greenwich it's really amazing every time I have an out of town visitor it's almost impossible not to show them one of our parks, so I want to express my gratitude.

670

01:44:41.760 --> 01:44:47.910

Ernst Schirmer: also want to point out because maybe Joe would have forgotten about this, to make a commercial.

671

01:44:48.360 --> 01:44:58.110

Ernst Schirmer: from me one arm they're going to have for the first time ever ride a bicycle Beak it's affordable proclamation and the idea is to encourage the public.

672

01:44:58.380 --> 01:45:06.330

Ernst Schirmer: To think of alternative ways to get around town for short distances so ride the bicycle week is really intended for everyone.

673

01:45:06.540 --> 01:45:16.530

Ernst Schirmer: And I could not only think of a better place to take a bike ride or do like a family picnic and to use one of our parks going forward my wish to the board.

674

01:45:16.890 --> 01:45:20.940

Ernst Schirmer: Including shows is liana is on the bicycle Task Force committee as well.

675

01:45:21.420 --> 01:45:31.290

Ernst Schirmer: bicycling pedestrian safety to get into the parks and within the parks, is something that we need to talk more about because we have some deficits there.

676

01:45:31.530 --> 01:45:45.930

Ernst Schirmer: And we can improve on these type of things because, clearly, this will be exciting and moving forward on that front as well whoopee appreciate it, I would like to speak about pickup ball as well, but i'll wait for your sign Scott, thank you.

677

01:45:49.500 --> 01:46:07.200

Scott R. Johnson: Thank you, I actually I do have a question show you know the answer this you know, years ago, there was a big initiative to prove bicycle paths in Greenwich and that's kind of that's kind of fallen flat a bit is that is that anywhere to be found.

678

01:46:08.100 --> 01:46:19.140

Joe Siciliano: Scott, the years and years ago there was a bike route document that went from own grannies to buyer taking various roads, it was signed.

679

01:46:19.590 --> 01:46:37.560

Joe Siciliano: There were no street markings there was just street signs that directed people on various various way to come from oh granted riverside through river road through our through our street end up environment, the document is antiquated and maybe under today's.

680

01:46:39.090 --> 01:46:40.920

Joe Siciliano: terms, probably outdated.

681

01:46:42.300 --> 01:46:50.310

Joe Siciliano: The bike Committee, I know, is it has been with this committee and i've been part of some of those conversations working heavily with Kim michaels to look at.

682

01:46:50.790 --> 01:47:00.150

Joe Siciliano: possibilities of road markings and better signage and looking at opportunities to create bag routes, I know that there was one in the.

683

01:47:01.380 --> 01:47:02.460

Joe Siciliano: Fire me slash.

684

01:47:03.480 --> 01:47:12.450

Joe Siciliano: who lives school area that was explored extensively there's something being you know there's been talks about it, you know something going East you know to me.

685

01:47:12.960 --> 01:47:21.180

Joe Siciliano: east, west kind of between the various burrows between you know downtown Greenwich coskata we recital grants, you know.

686

01:47:21.870 --> 01:47:33.420

Joe Siciliano: And, of course, you know when we get into some of the park areas it is pretty natural to want to ride in some of the parks those those should be part of that conversation but continuous you know kind of.

687

01:47:33.960 --> 01:47:42.300

Joe Siciliano: bike loop bike opportunity, so it just doesn't end at the outskirts of the park that it actually goes through the park and becomes part of the.

688

01:47:42.930 --> 01:47:56.970

Joe Siciliano: The circuit for people to travel enter and enjoy so you know there's a lot more work that needs to be done on this, but the road markings, and some of the signage really lies with dp w we've been part of the conversation.

689

01:47:57.900 --> 01:48:07.140

Joe Siciliano: Ernst and his committee has done a great job of kind of keeping keeping the forward momentum going, and you know, we look forward to more opportunity, so I mean I you know it.

690

01:48:07.890 --> 01:48:15.360

Joe Siciliano: You know it's just kind of even though biking is not a new thing the whole opportunity to kind of move this initiative forward.

691

01:48:15.750 --> 01:48:28.050

Joe Siciliano: there's only really been in a band, or you know in some active conversation, maybe, about a year of formal you know informal it's been going on for a long time so hopefully we can we can make some progress.

692

01:48:30.240 --> 01:48:32.460

Scott R. Johnson: Your hand is still up here, did you have a final question.

693

01:48:38.160 --> 01:48:43.200

Scott R. Johnson: I guess not so I see our parents, did you have a follow up question.

694

01:48:44.850 --> 01:48:49.260

Ernst Schirmer: Actually, on my screen it said I had lowered the hand, so I will wait for pickup ball till you get.

695

01:48:49.290 --> 01:48:51.960

Scott R. Johnson: us to sign to speak about you can.

696

01:48:52.320 --> 01:48:54.750

Scott R. Johnson: we're up to a common, are you good good.

697

01:48:55.170 --> 01:48:55.590

Okay.

698

01:48:56.940 --> 01:49:07.140

Ernst Schirmer: Disclosure i'm a long term tennis player and I admire pickle ball and I see them have fun and so on it's a great sport.

699

01:49:07.620 --> 01:49:15.960

Ernst Schirmer: As a tennis player, I do need to point out the following, however, no conversation was solved with us that's not fair.

700

01:49:16.500 --> 01:49:23.400

Ernst Schirmer: Number two hybrid courts, and I would like to have a more detailed conversation with plays about that.

701

01:49:23.790 --> 01:49:34.020

Ernst Schirmer: hybrid courts do not work out for tennis players, the extra lines are irritating it's hard to see where your surf lands or where the baseline is and so on.

702

01:49:34.320 --> 01:49:41.400

Ernst Schirmer: So I would respectfully ask very becomes unavoidable and some additional striping is needed.

703

01:49:41.850 --> 01:49:55.560

Ernst Schirmer: That, at least in a place like Bruce spark one or two tennis courts remain pure tennis courts and not that all tennis courts will be striped because this is really against the tennis players.

704

01:49:55.890 --> 01:50:02.250

Ernst Schirmer: i'm also saying that because i'd be willing to have that debate with blaze because I believe.

705

01:50:02.730 --> 01:50:14.580

Ernst Schirmer: I acknowledge the growth and pickled ball that we have 349 players, I think we have a lot more tennis players in town, so therefore again the tennis players should be part of the conversation.

706

01:50:15.480 --> 01:50:30.450

Ernst Schirmer: I do not understand, I understand that a lot of neighbors do have issues, but I think evening lights, because we have space limitations evening lights can be done in much smarter way much less interfering with neighborhoods than in the past, and so on.

707

01:50:31.290 --> 01:50:41.640

Ernst Schirmer: We should really also bring into the conversation, how can we expand the hours for everyone pickle ball and tennis so evening likes to be a compensation item as well.

708

01:50:42.210 --> 01:50:50.520

Ernst Schirmer: But if respect to the reservation system, my apologies, Joe and I would say to sue as well, it is a very antiquated system.

709

01:50:50.790 --> 01:51:00.660

Ernst Schirmer: And as a tennis player, I would like to know if I need to make a reservation on a tennis court, whether the tennis court is stripe or it's a pure tennis court.

710

01:51:01.020 --> 01:51:09.510

Ernst Schirmer: Otherwise I just don't think it's fair so in terms of real data real analytics I have not yet heard.

711

01:51:10.110 --> 01:51:19.350

Ernst Schirmer: And I stayed from the initial conversation and I listened to every sentence very, very carefully, I don't think the town has good enough analytics to.

712

01:51:19.770 --> 01:51:23.670

Ernst Schirmer: really make decisions, yet I think more conversation is needed.

713

01:51:24.090 --> 01:51:37.710

Ernst Schirmer: And I would like to go back to places promise that there is a Community conversation and the respective parties are properly invited so that everybody has a chance to express themselves, please, I appreciate that Thank you so much.

714

01:51:39.750 --> 01:51:40.050

Scott R. Johnson: Thank you.

715

01:51:42.150 --> 01:51:43.320

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, so i've seen.

716

01:51:46.080 --> 01:51:49.590

Scott R. Johnson: In the live i've seen procon pisani.

717

01:51:54.150 --> 01:51:54.780

Scott R. Johnson: There you go.

718

01:51:56.070 --> 01:52:05.490

Pragati Soni: i'm lining is Jia Sharma I am a third grader at costco school I live on cross lane right next to laughlin park.

719

01:52:06.090 --> 01:52:13.050

Pragati Soni: The other day, my mom told me that I wouldn't be able to play in the tent in our neighborhood court, this has made me very sad.

720

01:52:13.740 --> 01:52:24.210

Pragati Soni: I got to the Granite racquet club at river road twice a week to get 10 lessons with my sisters that we we practice it lawful in tennis courts after coming from there.

721

01:52:24.810 --> 01:52:31.890

Pragati Soni: Once was there is nice I play tennis with my friends Emerson and Piper my mom books, the tennis court and NICO there ourselves and play.

722

01:52:32.490 --> 01:52:44.610

Pragati Soni: This is good, because my mom is very busy she does not have time to drop us my mom says, having a tennis court is nearest is a blessing, because it keeps us away from screen.

723

01:52:45.900 --> 01:53:05.700

Pragati Soni: I am inspired by serena Williams and hope to be like her, one day, I hope my beautiful town can support me on this, please don't take wear tennis court from her neighborhood it will make me my friend and my sister very sad, I hope you reconsider your business decision thanks juice Sharma.

724

01:53:08.160 --> 01:53:11.910

Scott R. Johnson: Thank you i'm sorry I didn't even come close to pronounce your name.

725

01:53:13.890 --> 01:53:15.180

Scott R. Johnson: Thank you very well said.

726

01:53:16.170 --> 01:53:17.220

Pragati Soni: My name is tia.

727

01:53:17.580 --> 01:53:18.540

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, thank you.

728

01:53:20.220 --> 01:53:25.260

Scott R. Johnson: um well you're the one to the beautiful trying to I think what do you guys did a beautiful drawing.

729

01:53:26.310 --> 01:53:30.420

Scott R. Johnson: um okay so let's I build a Luca is not.

730

01:53:33.180 --> 01:53:33.870

William deluca: For I can hear me.

731

01:53:34.140 --> 01:53:35.760

Scott R. Johnson: From the famous De Luca family.

732

01:53:36.210 --> 01:53:38.130

William deluca: Yes, hi i'm recent.

733

01:53:39.150 --> 01:53:44.490

William deluca: move into the lawful and Park Area and come to my house that has both pickup ball and tennis supporters.

734

01:53:45.720 --> 01:54:00.630

William deluca: One thing that I would suggest is, I am not the net seem to be the issue, who buys the nets where they're where their caps I don't necessarily think anyone's fully convinced anyone on to fully convert regardless of what the site is.

735

01:54:02.130 --> 01:54:02.970

William deluca: Secondly.

736

01:54:04.050 --> 01:54:11.280

William deluca: What I would suggest is getting a little bit more innovative in terms sites and strategic sites, so I hadn't considered the roof of the new civic Center.

737

01:54:12.570 --> 01:54:28.350

William deluca: Or the parking lot is an interim solution in the future roof of the new civic Center, so I think you need to give some more thought to that additionally on the numbers from I think 2020 and 2021 are necessarily fair time frames to judge social trends based.

738

01:54:28.350 --> 01:54:41.730

William deluca: On as they're extremely anomalies over the past few years, consider giving more time look at the data and see what it is, is people return to two more normal lives and different behaviors so.

739

01:54:42.450 --> 01:54:56.820

William deluca: That would be my thought supporter of obviously maintaining both but not necessarily fully converting one space as it's a huge part of the neighborhood as i've witnessed in you know my 31 years of living in town so thanks everyone.

740

01:54:58.170 --> 01:54:58.770

William deluca: Thanks.

741

01:54:59.880 --> 01:55:01.320

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, so who we are to.

742

01:55:06.870 --> 01:55:11.940

Scott R. Johnson: I don't see any new people on earth so much or if you're still oh James was.

743

01:55:17.250 --> 01:55:17.970

Scott R. Johnson: Go ahead James.

744

01:55:18.150 --> 01:55:23.790

James Walsh: hey yes, good evening all and thank you for allowing me the time to to speak.

745

01:55:24.810 --> 01:55:34.350

James Walsh: I guess one I had a question I don't know if it can be answered now or not, but up to her earlier alluded to laughlin park is being important.

746

01:55:35.580 --> 01:55:46.320

James Walsh: Having a very important in the pickle ball Community was just wondering a if he can elaborate on that, if possible, and what that what that is I don't know is that possible.

747

01:55:51.180 --> 01:55:51.480

Scott R. Johnson: hi.

748

01:55:53.640 --> 01:55:55.710

Scott R. Johnson: Joe blaze you want address that as quickly.

749

01:55:57.870 --> 01:56:16.710

Joe Siciliano: As Scott, I think the reason why the pickup ball players like laughlin avenue is because there are four courts there and that they can switch players, you know it's it can have like a round Robin going on, and you know so it's become an attractive spot.

750

01:56:18.360 --> 01:56:30.420

Joe Siciliano: And that you know as a sports kind of grow, there was a discussion, and this is this the cursory discussion about could we advance more couple courts at that location and we.

751

01:56:30.960 --> 01:56:43.170

Joe Siciliano: didn't think that that was a suitable location to put additional courts, because there are other competing interests there like tennis and the playground and baseball diamond and.

752

01:56:43.710 --> 01:56:50.130

Joe Siciliano: neighborhood use, and so we we we've been talking to the pickup ball folks about.

753

01:56:50.640 --> 01:56:55.110

Joe Siciliano: You know they've come to us and said let's put two more courses and we have six courts, and we have a compound and.

754

01:56:55.440 --> 01:57:02.340

Joe Siciliano: Like I said when we've said well you know it has to be something for everybody, I mean, and we look at the competing you said laughlin avenue.

755

01:57:02.790 --> 01:57:07.020

Joe Siciliano: I mean we've had baseball here for years really great little baseball field neighborhood us we've had.

756

01:57:07.440 --> 01:57:17.010

Joe Siciliano: brand new playground, we just installed the paddle tennis courts, we have said escorts combinations so we're trying to balance it all out and look at other opportunities.

757

01:57:17.670 --> 01:57:27.420

Joe Siciliano: That might be possible and that's how the that's how Bible street came up because Bible street originally that the Court that is there's two basketball courts are now, but in the.

758

01:57:27.960 --> 01:57:37.890

Joe Siciliano: In the year 2000 up to about 2005 one of those the back Court was a tennis court, it was kind of an unofficial tennis court because it it really was a tape play.

759

01:57:38.250 --> 01:57:45.420

Joe Siciliano: The fencing was tied to the Court, etc didn't get a whole lot of reservations and didn't get a lot of us, so we converted it to a basketball court.

760

01:57:45.930 --> 01:57:51.210

Joe Siciliano: But it was a tennis court for many, many, many years before we decided that.

761

01:57:51.660 --> 01:58:01.560

Joe Siciliano: let's let's give it some better use, and if we put basketball hoops up to the kids will use them for the first few years we had combination basketball and tennis courts, and it was kind of this.

762

01:58:01.950 --> 01:58:10.710

Joe Siciliano: battle, but you know if a tennis player showed up kids are playing basketball, and you got to get 10 kids off the Court to play tennis, and so we went we went strictly to the.

763

01:58:11.100 --> 01:58:16.440

Joe Siciliano: To that, and then there was a reason why Bible seem to be a possibility.

764

01:58:17.010 --> 01:58:22.980

Joe Siciliano: But get back to laughlin I think that the pickup ball players like it, because it's a hub, you know they have four courts.

765

01:58:23.190 --> 01:58:34.650

Joe Siciliano: They can switch players, they can have a little tournament they can do a round Robin you know those kinds of things and I think it just fits the need and that's why laughlin is an attractive location.

766

01:58:35.250 --> 01:58:45.240

Blaize Levitan (Parks): it's also just to add Joe to is geographically it's a centrally located place so you know we get everyone.

767

01:58:45.930 --> 01:59:01.260

Blaize Levitan (Parks): This is a common problem it's not just pick up all we're trying to balance the use of all of our properties and you hear people say things like this is our part, this is that park and then you your other everyone wants to do the same thing at the same parts to their centrally located.

768

01:59:03.270 --> 01:59:12.330

Blaize Levitan (Parks): You know they're gee you know, then people will say well why don't you put them over and Bruce and then the tennis players and Bruce you can look from the numbers actually earns brought this up.

769

01:59:13.050 --> 01:59:20.070

Blaize Levitan (Parks): And if you look at our fact sheet, which I can send earns to there's a number of tennis courts that that we say.

770

01:59:20.880 --> 01:59:34.080

Blaize Levitan (Parks): Like bending and bros that that can't have pickup ball there and the current conditions, because the hours of reservation are so high, and in terms of tennis use already without having any striping so.

771

01:59:35.070 --> 01:59:44.610

Blaize Levitan (Parks): I think that's what they mean by you know if pete still on, you can see, Peter can speak better than we can to his own comments, but it's also being centrally located and we get this.

772

01:59:45.750 --> 01:59:51.510

Blaize Levitan (Parks): All the time with people wanting the same things at the same location, but you know geographically.

773

01:59:52.830 --> 02:00:04.770

James Walsh: Thank you for that clarification and you know i'm glad to also hear that for at least the foreseeable future right the courts in laughlin are going to remain you know, in their current dual use right and basketball is going to remain a Bible street.

774

02:00:05.850 --> 02:00:12.090

James Walsh: You know I mean I play ball tennis and pickle I don't mind the lines at all right, I think the dual use of locklin's great.

775

02:00:12.960 --> 02:00:26.250

James Walsh: You know, and I guess I knew, you know a few things one I feel you know correct me if i'm wrong, I believe the town does have pickup ball nets that they provide for the clinics right.

776

02:00:27.270 --> 02:00:34.710

James Walsh: Is there okay so that's correct So is there a way to maybe just lock those and that's I think chrissy was suggesting this to which is a great idea.

777

02:00:35.040 --> 02:00:41.100

James Walsh: lock those nets in the green locker there, or you know lock them in some kind of storage unit that.

778

02:00:41.370 --> 02:00:55.230

James Walsh: individuals can have the code to because it takes, you know no more than a minute or 90 seconds to pop up right these pickup ball and that's It takes no time at all and that'll make it easy for pickle ballers to kind of you know, have access to more courts.

779

02:00:56.490 --> 02:00:57.600

James Walsh: Throughout town.

780

02:00:58.620 --> 02:01:05.550

James Walsh: You know, it would also be great I know laughlin centrally located it's heavily used right, I feel like.

781

02:01:06.750 --> 02:01:15.510

James Walsh: It might be good to maybe take a little bit of the pressure off laughlin court, especially now that you're striping more courts in town, especially on the weekend, when you have.

782

02:01:15.840 --> 02:01:24.510

James Walsh: The baseball game there you have kids on the playground, you know there's a lot going on and it feels like on the weekend, more so than the week days, a lot of pickup dollars are coming from out of town.

783

02:01:24.900 --> 02:01:31.830

James Walsh: right if you're looking at the number of New York plates that are going to the pickle ball courts there laughlin you get a lot of out of state plates.

784

02:01:32.130 --> 02:01:37.710

James Walsh: On the weekends, maybe it makes sense to move them to the western you know you said westerns now stripes.

785

02:01:38.220 --> 02:01:45.660

James Walsh: byron's now striped you know, maybe makes sense to move some of the clinics happening on the weekends to another another location.

786

02:01:46.260 --> 02:01:57.480

James Walsh: in town and then you know I know the pickle ballers you know, according to their website or kind of advocating, for you know, like an eight court pickle ball Center you know, I just want to kind of voice.

787

02:01:57.870 --> 02:02:05.250

James Walsh: My opinion at least that this does not belong in a neighborhood park and it seems like Joe you and blaze agree with me on that, but you know you were saying.

788

02:02:05.760 --> 02:02:12.000

James Walsh: You don't really see adding more pickup ball courts to laughlin Park, you know so that's kind of nice to hear, but you know.

789

02:02:12.450 --> 02:02:18.000

James Walsh: Maybe creatively look for some places to put these in right, I know, Roger Sherwood baldwin park.

790

02:02:18.360 --> 02:02:26.730

James Walsh: You know, is is on the table for renovation, that seems like a great spot to put three or four pickle ball courts, maybe right next to the skate park there right yeah parking.

791

02:02:27.060 --> 02:02:38.160

James Walsh: Your centrally located you're right off the highway you have beautiful views of the water, you know I mean West West port, you know combo beach has pickle ball court So there you know great views of the water right it's a great setting.

792

02:02:38.880 --> 02:02:47.310

James Walsh: or possibly put two courts, you know behind maybe the southern concession stand and todd's point not not the parking lot right there, but the one that's like 200.

793

02:02:47.310 --> 02:02:47.580

feet.

794

02:02:48.870 --> 02:02:57.270

James Walsh: From it, you know you're not removing any green space, you know it's staying impervious surface you take a few parking spots away.

795

02:02:58.050 --> 02:03:08.220

James Walsh: But you know you have more pickle courts in a great great location, I really believe with you know the proper dialogue pick a ball and tennis folks can kind of get along.

796

02:03:09.300 --> 02:03:21.480

James Walsh: You know and it's just about finding the right spot to kind of place these dedicated pickup ball courts or the pickle ball Center that kind of those guys are are really I think lobbying for at the end of the day.

797

02:03:22.920 --> 02:03:26.730

Scott R. Johnson: But let's try to do some other people want to comment thanks James.

798

02:03:26.910 --> 02:03:28.320

James Walsh: Thank you very much for your time guys.

799

02:03:28.650 --> 02:03:30.720

Scott R. Johnson: i'm so I see Bruno Nicholas.

800

02:03:39.570 --> 02:03:41.340

Scott R. Johnson: Go ahead unmute yourself.

801

02:03:45.420 --> 02:03:54.990

Bruno Niklaus: just want to point out that I really enjoy the varsity program on in tennis in our town, I see a lot of young tennis players.

802

02:03:56.340 --> 02:04:13.560

Bruno Niklaus: playing on the court in all courts and i'm so though I like pickle ball as a sport, but I don't think it really appeals to the younger generation, we have, if I look at the varsity tennis team, and I was a little bit surprised also that.

803

02:04:14.640 --> 02:04:28.290

Bruno Niklaus: When I play with my son on the Court suddenly when I came to the Court, especially in laughlin there are suddenly their various lines on the Court and nobody ever announced that there will be pickle bold codes on the tennis courts.

804

02:04:29.820 --> 02:04:39.960

Bruno Niklaus: So um and that's a tennis player I kind of disagree with somebody else saying the lines don't bother lines actually bother and that's why you don't have.

805

02:04:40.650 --> 02:04:55.410

Bruno Niklaus: People ball lines on the on the Grange high school courts, because if you play somewhat competitive tennis the the lines really i'm really make a big difference so um.

806

02:04:56.430 --> 02:05:01.980

Bruno Niklaus: The bottom line is really um I think pick up there should be a pickup ball.

807

02:05:03.450 --> 02:05:15.540

Bruno Niklaus: Specific pickup ball port available in town somewhere I don't think a mixture of tennis courts and pickle bolt codes really serves the purpose, because it is a different sport.

808

02:05:15.900 --> 02:05:35.760

Bruno Niklaus: Is a different it's a different mood and I think by own by having a this pickle ball court you actually are limiting the younger generation players to play tennis which I think is very important for our generation to have the kids play tennis because they don't pay people Bob.

809

02:05:37.230 --> 02:05:37.950

Bruno Niklaus: i'll have to say.

810

02:05:38.850 --> 02:05:41.670

Scott R. Johnson: Thank you for Thank you let's do our last.

811

02:05:43.410 --> 02:05:46.230

Scott R. Johnson: comment comments to tammy grimes timmy wanna.

812

02:05:47.400 --> 02:05:48.270

Scott R. Johnson: want on new.

813

02:05:49.320 --> 02:05:50.610

tammygrimes: Okay hi i'm.

814

02:05:52.230 --> 02:05:53.670

tammygrimes: You covered most of the.

815

02:05:53.850 --> 02:05:55.800

tammygrimes: comments I was going to make about the Bruce.

816

02:05:55.800 --> 02:06:01.950

tammygrimes: spark and how it's dedicated more to this already, the only other thing I was going to add is that.

817

02:06:02.730 --> 02:06:22.050

tammygrimes: You could make the paddle courts more useful for pickle ball during the winter or during the summer by adding pads I know at millbrook we can put a surface over our paddle courts and they so anyway, that would be at least two more courts, you could use for pickup ball in the summer.

818

02:06:24.720 --> 02:06:25.500

tammygrimes: Can you hear me.

819

02:06:26.760 --> 02:06:30.870

Scott R. Johnson: Yes, Sir, it again putting resurfacing about corazon.

820

02:06:31.500 --> 02:06:40.650

tammygrimes: it's a temporary Sir it's it's almost like padding and we do it at millbrook and we're able to use it for pickup ball during the spring summer.

821

02:06:40.980 --> 02:06:42.030

Joe Siciliano: If we don't do this.

822

02:06:42.630 --> 02:06:45.300

Joe Siciliano: i'm sorry there's a sports court surfacing.

823

02:06:45.810 --> 02:06:46.740

Joe Siciliano: It could be a plot.

824

02:06:47.430 --> 02:06:56.730

tammygrimes: yeah and you know that, because they probably don't play paddle during much many people don't play during the summer so at least that gives you two more courts and it's all in laughlin m&a.

825

02:06:57.180 --> 02:06:59.100

Joe Siciliano: yeah we just learned about this a while back.

826

02:06:59.100 --> 02:07:11.610

Joe Siciliano: I know millbrook is from a vendor who said they put some sport court surfacing on milburn's courts, and we can take a look at it, this is part of what we're going to explore about the whole.

827

02:07:11.670 --> 02:07:12.930

tammygrimes: I just thought i'd throw it out.

828

02:07:13.860 --> 02:07:16.170

tammygrimes: There hadn't heard that and I also echo the.

829

02:07:17.850 --> 02:07:18.540

Joe Siciliano: keeper man.

830

02:07:19.680 --> 02:07:28.590

tammygrimes: you're welcome, and then I echo I was that idea of keeping the net net on the Court, I mean at millbrook we also just push them aside.

831

02:07:28.920 --> 02:07:34.680

tammygrimes: So they could stay there every you know throughout the day I mean I suppose it be a pain to go lock them up every day.

832

02:07:35.130 --> 02:07:48.420

tammygrimes: If you had if the players didn't do it themselves and you had a town employee do it, but um I mean that seems silly you know that seems feasible, though, to buy those and leave them there okay that's all I have to say.

833

02:07:49.980 --> 02:07:50.280

Scott R. Johnson: tammy.

834

02:07:50.790 --> 02:07:51.360

Joe Siciliano: Thank you.

835

02:07:51.840 --> 02:07:53.430

Scott R. Johnson: Thanks Thank you so.

836

02:07:56.670 --> 02:08:00.660

Scott R. Johnson: let's let's try to wrap this up by one thing I do collected to do is there's a.

837

02:08:01.740 --> 02:08:13.470

Scott R. Johnson: Over unshackled conditioning is this weekend, they usually have somebody from parks and REC for to attend I can't this weekend, so if anyone else wants to do it, yes, you want me to do.

838

02:08:14.610 --> 02:08:14.880

Scott R. Johnson: lf.

839

02:08:16.770 --> 02:08:17.880

Scott R. Johnson: Nancy unmute yourself.

840

02:08:18.150 --> 02:08:19.830

Nancy Chapin: I am, I will be there.

841

02:08:19.860 --> 02:08:20.880

Scott R. Johnson: So it okay.

842

02:08:21.060 --> 02:08:23.190

Scott R. Johnson: Good that's good that somebody there so.

843

02:08:23.640 --> 02:08:31.020

Scott R. Johnson: I can't do it, so thank you alright so let's have a motion to adjourn Can somebody do that.

844

02:08:32.670 --> 02:08:33.360

Scott R. Johnson: So.

845

02:08:34.410 --> 02:08:35.430

Scott R. Johnson: Somebody second that.

846

02:08:37.260 --> 02:08:56.970

Scott R. Johnson: frank that's all in favor two hands and see okay impose nobody okay so thanks guys um we learned a lot, and that was very productive, so I for one would like to try to get an outdoor meeting fairly soon so we'll talk about that.

847

02:08:58.740 --> 02:09:02.280

Scott R. Johnson: Okay, so that's it we're adjourned and.

848

02:09:03.330 --> 02:09:04.020

Scott R. Johnson: Keep plugging.

849

02:09:04.740 --> 02:09:05.430

Frank Di Vincenzo: Thank you all.

850

02:09:07.500 --> 02:09:08.010

Tracy Freedman: Thank you.

851

02:09:08.340 --> 02:09:08.910

Sue Bodson: good night.