

March 8, 2004

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, C. J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Lisa Easter, Holly Haas, Tim Cook, Mary Anne Greene, Secretary.

Visitors: Wayne Johnson, Stark Weiner - Washington Volunteer Fire Department

Sheila called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. and welcomed the Fire Department representatives.

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 9, 2004 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission as presented. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

I. Visitors: Wayne Johnson and Stark Weiner of the Fire Department came to this evening's meeting to discuss the Department's annual carnival which will be held on June 24th through the 26th, 2004 with set up beginning on June 20th. The purpose of their coming was to make certain there would be no conflicts with Parks and Rec programs that may be going on at the same time in the Pavilion area. ACE Baseball will be occurring that week (daytime) but as they only use the Pavilion for lunch and to occasionally get out of the sun it was felt there would be no conflict. The Commission recommended that the Fire Department contact Dave Werkhoven and let him know the dates as well. Legion baseball may have some games scheduled and it was recommended Vince Belanger be contacted about this. The Fire Department also mentioned their willingness to repair any damage that may be done to the fields and surrounding areas.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Budget: Sheila reported that several members of the Commission and Lisa met with the Selectmen to go over their request for next fiscal year and to answer any questions they may have. The Commission will be speaking with Courtney Dohman, Summer Recreation Director, regarding the ratio of counselors to campers and Lisa has mentioned to Hank Vallyely, Boat Ramp Director, the possibility of his going on salary as opposed to being paid by the hour. **Motion:** The Commission supports its proposed budget and is hopeful it will be accepted by the Selectmen and the Board of Finance. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

B. Beach and Boat Launch: No report as Ray Reich was not present this evening.

C. River walk Pavilion Project: Sheila, Joe, Tim and any other interested Commissioners will meet with Susie Payne and Linc Cornell the end of this month to discuss another fund raising letter. Sheila has also been notified that they will need to go to Planning in addition to Zoning after gaining Inland Wetlands approval. Tim Cook has spoken to Frank Dolen, a local contractor, re: doing the specs for the project and the necessary coordinating with engineers. This would need to be done before going out to bid. **Motion:** The Parks and Recreation Commission will hire Frank Dolen to do the specs, coordinate with engineers, the architect (Reese Owens), etc. at a price not to exceed \$5000.00 dollars. By Tim Cook, seconded by C. J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

There was further discussion regarding the timing of this project. It was unanimously decided to think more realistically of a fall start date because of the necessity of getting permits, specs drawn up, the Carnival in June and the 225th Town Anniversary in August.

D. Basketball/SBA: Joe Fredlund reported the program is winding down. The spaghetti dinner at the Legion Hall raised \$1300.00 for the program and they are in good financial shape. Sheila asked that the minutes reflect gratitude to the Legion for all they do to support the local organizations, sports teams, etc. **Motion:** To donate \$225.00 to American Legion Gage Zumpf #87 for the purchase of flags. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

E. Little League: Tim Cook reported that three registrations have been held. Cheryl Ayer has the figures. Late registrations can still occur however there may be a penalty fee. Several League meetings have been held and the start of the season is scheduled for April 26th with a "Jamboree" on April 24th. Cheryl will be "retiring" after this season and Adrienne Guliano will be Tim's new assistant. Sheila asked that the minutes reflect the Commission's gratitude to Cheryl for the many years she has given the Little League Program. Tim also asked Lisa to schedule a blood borne pathogen class for the coaches - this will be done at a coaches meeting.

F. 225th Anniversary Celebration: Sheila reported on the meeting she just attended. Bill Fairbairn has asked the Parks and Rec Commission to help organize games, etc. at the picnic which will be after the parade on August 28th. Lisa has received a referral from the school's PTO about Mr. Michel James idea to make a model of the Depot - getting students involved, etc. It was recommended this get passed on to Bill Fairbairn and Helga Hershey, chairmen for the celebration. Parks and Rec is still interested in the possibility of obtaining a George Washington costume.

G. Fourth of July Fireworks: No Report as Ray Reich was not at this meeting. Sheila did report that the logo for the 225th Celebration may be used for the t-shirts this year.

H. Town Garage Property: Tim Cook has spoken with Mike Alex re: doing a survey of this property and will be done after the River walk work is done.

III. COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Lisa Easter reported that the After School Arts and Crafts program is doing very well - 11 children for the March program. Adult Tai Chi is almost finished and De Calvey would like to continue with the program. Kim O'Reilly has 5 children signed up for knitting classes and adult classes will be held Friday evenings beginning on April 2nd. Lisa has received an inquiry from Donna Wright re: conducting a Mexican bark painting class. She will be invited to the next meeting of the Commission to discuss. The Bowling Alleys continue to be very popular. The pool table cover has been repaired. **Motion:** No one under the age of 16 will be allowed to use the Bowling Alley and/or pool table area without adult supervision. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by C. J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

Spring Swim will begin the end of April and Family Swim will be Friday and Monday evenings for 1 1/2 hours following the last lesson. Lisa announced the summer 2004 schedule. There was discussion about Lisa changing her hours from Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 - 12:00 to Monday 9:00-12:00 and Wednesday 9:00-3:00. As there was no objection, this will start on April 1st.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Temporary Skating Rink: Michelle and Michael Gorra have approached the Commission re: installing a temporary skating rink in the Pavilion area. They are willing to oversee it if Parks and Rec purchases the rink (possibly \$50-\$100). The Town of Roxbury has one of these and we will get more information from them. The Commission will also speak with the Fire Department as they used to do a similar project several years ago.

B. Bus Trips: Lisa asked the Commission for their input on going to a Yankees game even if we cannot get tickets for Yankees vs. Red Sox. It was decided to still do this- will pick a team that would be of interest to those who usually go. She also asked about doing another Broadway Show trip. It was decided to have Lisa use her knowledge of what show and when would be best.

C. Skateboarding: Tim mentioned seeing skateboarders on the steps of the gym of the Washington Primary School. As it appeared dangerous and they were not students from Washington, it was recommended this be mentioned to the police.

D. Field Upkeep: Tim will be working with a group of volunteers to paint the dugouts. Also dust and

clay need to be put in. There is also quite a bit of work that needs to be done on the fields before the season starts. Mr. Osborne will not be returning from Florida until the end of April. **Motion:** To hire someone temporarily to work on the fields (9 hours a week @ \$10.00/hour) to be paid out of the Parks and Rec account. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved. Lisa will handle "advertising" and Tim will coordinate the work that needs to be done.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila wished a happy and healthy recovery to Linnea Quist who will be undergoing surgery this Thursday.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32p.m.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2004, 7:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene
Secretary