

October 17, 2011

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, C.J. Kersten, Whitney Ryan, Laura Martin, Darren Dutcher, Tim Cook. Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene. Buildings and Properties Committee/Selectman Nick Solley.

Public: John Meeker, John and Janet Buonaiuto.

Call to order: Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Beach House Tenant Selection Procedure:

Sheila Anson welcomed Nick Solley who attended this evening's meeting as a member of the Buildings and Properties Committee/Board of Selectmen. Nick explained that prior to renting the Beach House a year and a half ago, he contacted Judy Auchincloss, a local realtor, who felt \$1000 a month was a fair market rental value. Although on the Lake, there are drawbacks such as little or no privacy during beach and boat launch season, little outside space for private use, road noise, etc. She visited the house again last week and still believes the \$1000 figure is accurate. Nick further explained that because of the care taking, landscaping and custodial duties, that were to be performed by the tenant, the Board of Selectmen felt \$500 a month rent was reasonable. As the Beach House is now available for rent, the procedure for renting and the duties involved with being a tenant are being reviewed. There was also discussion as to continuing to require the tenant to do the mowing, weedwacking, bathroom custodial duties and to "hire out" to have the landscaping – weeding, garden maintenance, mulching, etc. done. If this were to be the case, the rental amount could be increased. There was discussion as to John Meeker's suggestion to hire an outside real estate agent to handle the rental of the property. It was the consensus of the Commission members and Nick Solley, that since some potential tenants would be contacting the Selectmen's Office for information and to express interest and the final selection of the tenant would be made by the Board of Selectmen, there was little merit in hiring an agent that would charge the Town a commission, etc. The procedure for advertising, receiving and reviewing applications, interviewing of candidates and recommendation for approval of tenant/caretaker was discussed at length. The suggestion of doing a background check for any criminal record and credit check was discussed and agreed upon. Motion: The procedure for advertising/applying/approving a new caretaker/tenant for the Town Beach House will be to advertise in VOICES and the Spectrum; form a subcommittee consisting of three members of the Parks and Recreation Commission (Joe Fredlund, Ray Reich and Whitney Ryan), one member of the Buildings and Properties Commission (Nick Solley) and one Selectman (to be determined). Applications will be submitted to the Selectmen's Office and will be reviewed by the subcommittee, determine who will be interviewed, conduct

interviews and recommend selection to the Board of Selectmen for final approval. By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved. To submit this procedure to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

*** Youth Work Initiative:**

Denise Arturi attended this evenings meeting to thank the Commission for their support of the program and to report that she felt it was very successful. Four youth applied and two were hired. \$4480 was raised through donations from local organizations and businesses. Work was performed at Judea Garden, Bryan Plaza, River Walk, and Town Hall grounds. Denise is hopeful to coordinate with additional groups for next year – for example Lake Waramaug and Greenways. Distribution of produce from Judea Garden will take place for a couple of more weeks at the Town Hall.

*** Beach/Boat Launch:**

The Boat Launch will be closing for the season on October 30th. Hank Vallely will be invited to the November meeting of the Park & Rec Commission to discuss the season at the Boat Launch.

*** River Walk:**

Quotes for repairing of the River Walk walking path were submitted to the Selectmen's Office. Wyant & Company was selected and will begin work this week. The repairs to the parking area will be completed by the Town Highway Department. Lisa Easter reported that the swings have been repaired at the Tot Lot and the two stainless steel tables have been purchased and are in the kitchen at the Pavilion. Lisa will arrange for United Alarm to check the alarm system at the Pavilion for occasional false alarms. Tim Cook inquired about the placement of a partition in the men's room – Nick Solley will discuss with Buildings & Properties Commission. Joe Fredlund is waiting for an estimate for the construction and installation of a Bocce Court. A request may be made to the Village Improvement Society to contribute to this addition to the River Walk Park.

*** Holiday In the Depot:**

Lisa Easter reported that this is the 20th Anniversary of this popular seasonal event and is hopeful to add some "special extras" this year. Laura Martin offered to speak with the Gunnery regarding their "troubadours" to sing, Whitney Ryan will also speak with Rumsey re: their singers – some may stroll, be on the hay wagon... The Garden Club has requested a table in the Town Hall to sell items. Lisa may speak with the art department at Shepaug re: a new set for Santa's village. John Meeker suggested a small parade with floats, singing groups – this may be something PTO may be interested in. The lights for the tree at the Town Hall will be discussed in more detail at next month's meeting – colored? white? who will trim? Does the tree need to be trimmed? Lisa will contact Bill Pollock of Arbor Services.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

*** Summer Camps:**

Ace Baseball has submitted their annual report – attached to these minutes.

*** Bus Trips:**

The cancelled trip to Yankee Stadium (8/14/11) is tentatively rescheduled for 9/15 or 9/16/2012. Confirmation will be forthcoming. Radio City Music Hall with Warren may be scheduled for next year. Dates are being worked on for a trip to a casino – Warren, Bridgewater and Roxbury may want to share. Red Sox at Fenway tentatively scheduled for 5/27/2012.

*** Safe Boating Class:**

scheduled for 11/5/11 from 9:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Hoping to hold another class in the spring.

* Washington-Gunnery Skate:

Michael Gorra has contacted Lisa re: running Family Skate at the Gunnery and the Skating Clinic at Rumsey through Parks and Rec again this year. This is a seasonal program supported each year by Parks and Rec. Michael will be forwarding sign up information and posters soon.

Visitors:

* John Meeker inquired about the Parks & Rec's position regarding the Beach House caretaker/tenants leaving prior to the end of the lease – would they be forgiven the balance due? Sheila Anson stated the Commission would review and refer to the Board of Selectmen.

* Janet and John Buonaiuto asked where the rental income from the Beach House went. Nick Solley explained that just like the rental income from the Old Firehouse it was deposited into the General Fund. They asked why Parks and Rec was involved at all in the renting of the Beach House – as opposed to the Selectmen. Sheila Anson explained that years ago there was a “Beach Committee” that oversaw all activities and facilities at the Town Beach. That committee was dissolved and an additional member given to Park and Rec Commission with the responsibility of overseeing the Town Beach. Additional questions were asked about the amount of rent charged – how it compared to what the Housing Trust charges for their properties and if the Beach House could be counted in the Town's inventory of affordable housing. Nick Solley felt that given the responsibilities the caretaker/tenant has the monthly rental was reasonable and in line with what may be charged at Church Street and/or Dodge Farm. As for including the Beach House as “affordable” – that can be determined on a case by case (current tenant's income) basis rather than limiting the pool of potential candidates by designating the house affordable.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Sheila Anson reported the following:

* Monthly financial report of program income/expenses and balances was distributed and reviewed.

* Sympathy was expressed to the families of Beverly Dwyer, Peg Von Gal and Elisha Dyer.

* Congratulations to Mackenzie and Meredith Stuart who completed the half marathon last weekend in Hartford and thanks to Jaye Stuart who never forgets her field hockey players – often following them into their college careers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion:

To adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

The Commissioners re-entered their Regular Meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Tim Cook, seconded by Darren Dutcher and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk

