

February 8, 2010

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

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners C. J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Ray Reich, Joan Gauthey, Lou Magnoli, Tim Cook, Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order: Chairman Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. noting there was a quorum.

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting.

By Ray Reich, seconded by Joan Gauthey and unanimously approved.

VISITORS:

Sheila welcomed:

* Maria Isabel Artieda:

Maria Isabel explained she is from Peru, lives in the Depot with her husband and children and has been volunteering at the library, the Reach Program and at Washington Montessori School teaching Spanish by doing arts and crafts, play, music, etc. as well as with children for whom she provides babysitting services. She would like to offer classes to children 4-6 years old and 6-9 years old and is requesting the Parks and Recreation Commission's sponsorship. It was suggested we look into the use of the Washington Primary School after school to make it easier for children, and parents, to attend. If this does not work, she would like to use a spot in the Town Hall. The Commissioners thanked Maria for attending and advised that they would discuss further and have Lisa get back to her in the next day or two. Lisa offered to assist her in working out details with the school, cost etc. 5% of monies collected would be given to Parks and Rec.

* Tom McGowan, Lake Waramaug Authority:

Ray Reich introduced Tom and credited him for "authoring" a "Proposed Updated Lake Waramaug Boating Inspection Program". Ray and Tom explained that the document recommends actions, requirements and procedures for inspecting for invasive species. Boat Launch Attendants would be given training for inspections of all motorboats, directives, a check list to follow, etc. No motorboats would be allowed to enter from the State Park and Lake Shore owners and owners of Lake Shore access rights would also have inspections procedures to follow. The Selectmen of Washington, Warren and Kent have been involved in the process and review of the draft. The inspection program would be under the jurisdiction of the Lake Waramaug Authority and the Resident State Trooper. Ideally, only trained attendants would staff the Boat Launch all hours the launch is open. Presently the Washington Beach Director covers some of these hours. This could be a budgetary concern and Warren and Kent would be asked to share in the cost. The new document would give the Lake Waramaug Authority the right to stop boats and to enforce the regulations by issuing citations, etc. Tom also thanked the Parks and Rec Commission for a job that has been very well done at the launch for the last several years. He asked the Commission to review the draft and to accept the proposed inspection program. Motion: To review the document and to approve, or amend with suggested changes by the March meeting. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Beach/Boat Launch:

Ray Reich reported that he, Selectman Nick Solley and Architect William Worcester did a walk through of the newly completed beach house and there are no issues or complaints :). Ray has also asked the Selectmen's office to let him know if there are any funds left in the beach house/landscaping budget that could be used for playground equipment. There was discussion about the Fire Department's storing of the airboat in the beach house during the summer months. The Commissioner's understanding was that the airboat would be stored there only in the winter months and thought that this space would be available for storage of kayaks and canoes for use of the beachgoers in the summer. Ray will speak with the Fire Department. Hank Vallely has seen the new beach house, been given the list of duties as caretaker and has been told the rent will now be \$500 per month. Ray will contact him to see if he has made a decision as he was given "right of first refusal".

*** River Walk Park:**

Joe Martin would like to meet with any available Commissioners on Sunday, February 14 at 9:00a.m. at the Joe Martin field to discuss his request from the last meeting and to look at where he thought scoreboard, bleachers, etc. should be placed. Lisa Easter reported that the pavers for the path behind the Pavilion and to the grill area have been ordered. Sheila Anson spoke about the heavy use of the Pavilion and the need to "tighten" up the reservation system.

Motion:

To amend the Use of Pavilion Application Form to include "No date will be considered reserved until all paperwork and payments have been received."

By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

*** Shepaug Basketball Association:**

Lisa reported all is going smoothly. There are a large number of participants from third and fourth grades held at Shepaug. First and second grades still use the Washington Primary School gym. Next year all teams will be under the SBA but the lower grades will most likely stay in their respective primary school gyms. The Hot Shot Tournament had a good turnout and SBA was involved in the running of it this year.

*** Adult Basketball:**

C.J. Kersten said it had been brought to his attention that very few Washington or Region 12 residents are participating in the Adult Basketball program. No paperwork has been filed with our Parks and Recreation Office, no monies have been turned over, etc. Motion: To shut down the Adult Basketball Program until further notice. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Lou Magnoli and unanimously approved. Lisa will contact Ben Woodruff who is running the program.

*** CD Rates:**

At last month's meeting the Commission asked that the CD that was about to be renewed be done for only three months and interest rates reviewed again at that time. Treasurer Linda McGarr advised that decision be delayed until this meeting (there was time before the expiration date) when new rates would be out.

Motion:

To renew the CD at First National Bank of Litchfield for a one year period at a rate of 1.15%.

By Joan Gauthey, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

*** Fireworks:**

No report.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported:

*** Summer Camps:**

The following camps have been scheduled:

Golf July 19-23

Spartan Hoop July 26-30

Lego August 2-6

Multi-Sport August 16-20

Ace Baseball and Field Hockey dates are not yet set.

*** Nick Gueniat's Senior Project - Trip to Boston:**

Nick and Lisa have been working on posters, inquiries are beginning to come in, some sign ups have been received. The trip is scheduled for Sunday, April 18, 2010.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Cal Ripkin Baseball:**

Tim Cook reported that the Little League Major League teams have very few participants and it has become increasingly difficult to find teams to play. Most towns around us have switched to "Cal Ripkin Baseball". It would require Washington to make some changes to Field #4 – move the pitcher's mound out, move the bases, repair the backstop, etc. The Shepaug Baseball Association has voted to make this change. Motion: To spend up to \$3500 to improve and upgrade Field #4 to Cal Ripkin standards. By Ray Reich, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

*** CSI Camp:**

This would be a "new camp" offered by the same company that does the Lego Camp. This would be for sixth to eighth grade students at a cost of \$109 for the week. There would no cost to Parks and Rec. It was unanimously agreed to give it a try – most likely in August.

*** Facebook Page:**

Nick Gueniat needs to have a "technology segment" to his Senior Project and he would like to create a Facebook page for the Parks and Recreation Commission that could list our upcoming events, programs etc. It was unanimously agreed to allow Nick, with Lisa's input to give it a try. It can be cancelled at any time and there is no cost.

*** Maria Isabel Artieda's proposal:**

Motion:

To support Maria Isabel's proposal.

By Joan Gauthey, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

*** Election of Officers:**

Motion:

To nominate and elect the following officers for the coming year:

Sheila Anson, Chairman; Joe Fredlund and Tim Cook, Vice Chairmen and C.J. Kersten, Treasurer.

By Joan Gauthey, seconded by Lou Magnoli and unanimously approved.

The "non-officer" Commissioners thanked Sheila, Joe, Tim and CJ for a job well done and for continuing in their positions!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Sheila Anson reported the following:

* Happy 50th Birthday to David Easter and again to our Lisa!

* Avon Walk for Breast Cancer:

Washington's Martha Fairbairn, Liddy Adams and Mary Anne Greene will be participating in this event in Boston in May.

Adjournment:

* The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 8, 2010, 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk