

April 13, 2009

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

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

Minutes:

* Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 9, 2009 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Holly Haas, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

* River Walk Park: Sheila Anson reported that 36 applications were received for the groundskeeper position – it was narrowed down to 8 candidates – 6 came in for interviews. Gary Alex was hired and welcomed aboard! Gary coincidentally stopped in :) and gave the following report: water at the Pavilion will be turned on tomorrow, he will be mulching around trees, pruning, weed whacking, mowing, etc – general spring clean up. Clay has been ordered for fields, stone dust for paths... scoreboard has been fixed, still need an American flag for the ball fields (Lou Magnoli will check with Pete Williams from the American Legion re: the status of this.) Joe Fredlund has also requested a proposal from Gary (independently from his Groundskeeper position) for athletic field maintenance, which would include weed control, fertilization and renovation. Motion: To approve up to \$3500 to Alex Sports Management for pre-emergent weed control and fertilization of fields. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook.

Discussion: The point was made that by using Gary Alex to do this work; the fields will be in better condition for less money than with previous contractor and with Gary's presence as groundskeeper, work will be done on a regular basis. The motion passed unanimously. Sheila reported there has been several calls from the alarm company because of "open doors – locks will be checked, etc. Lisa reported that the exhaust hood has been ordered for the kitchen at the Pavilion, Julie Adams will do the spring clean up, there is a moratorium from the State on grants therefore the project to eradicate the Japanese knotweed is on hold, and reminded all that dogs should be leashed!

* Beach and Boat Launch: Ray Reich reported that an engineer has been hired for the beach house project. Lisa reported the beach will open Memorial Day weekend for weekends, the boat launch will open Saturday, April 18, 2009 and the passes for the beach and boat launch are ready for this season.

* Baseball: Tim Cook reported that Little League is in full swing. Washington will be participating in an inter-town league with Watertown and will also be playing teams from Kent and Bethlehem. April 25th is the official Opening Day.

* Fireworks: Ray Reich reported that he will be sending a letter to the major donors thanking them for their contribution last year and that they may use their VIP passes this year and reminding those who did not contribute that we would be gratefully appreciative for a donation this year. It was agreed to use Chatfield for porta-potties. Ray is working with a Shepaug student for the t-shirt design. There are a "few" passes left over from last year that were not sold. They will be sold for this year's fireworks on a first-come, first-serve basis.

* Morning Swim: Sheila reported that despite weeks of notifying the Shepaug Superintendent's office, and maintenance office, showers remain cold, as does the pool. She has been told that hopefully work will be done during vacation week to rectify this problem.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Lisa Easter reported:

* Bus Trips: There are 12 spots left for the Red Sox vs. Tampa Bay Rays game on May 10th. Cost is

\$100 per person. There are 31 spots left for the Tall Ships trip to Boston on July 11th. Lisa will do more advertising for this trip. She is still waiting to hear about Yankees tickets.

* Spring Swim: Mondays starting May 4th and Fridays starting May 8th - \$40 per child for six lessons. Family Swim Monday and Friday 8-9:00p.m.

* Spring Tennis: Kenyon Clark holding lessons for 3rd and 4th graders on Tuesdays and Fridays May 5-29. Cost is \$100 for 8 lessons.

* Summer Camps: Lego Camp is a new addition and will be held August 3-7 for 7-9 year olds. Cost is \$130 per child.

* Summer Concerts: General discussion was held about scheduling a concert this summer, as this is always a popular event. Motion: To approve \$750 for summer concerts. By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Windscreen on Ted Alex Field: Tim asked the Commission to consider the purchase of a green windscreen for the outfield of Ted Alex Field as well as new safety covers for the fence. He estimated the cost to be approximately \$3000. The commissioners asked Tim for a more formal proposal including prices and pictures.

* Men's Breakfast: Ray reminded that the monthly Men's Breakfast held the first Saturday of the month will be May 2nd and he has "volunteered" the Parks and Recreation Commission gentlemen to be the "cooks"... theme to be determined!

* Election of Officers: Motion: To cast one vote to have Sheila Anson continue as Chairman, Joe Fredlund and Tim Cook as Vice-Chairmen and C.J. Kersten as Treasurer. By Holly Haas, seconded by Lou Magnoli and unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila reported:

* Lou Magnoli has reported feeling well and doing OK!- Yeah! :)

* Feel Better wishes to: Blanche Cook, Polly Jewett, Dave Werkhoven and Don Camp!

* Congratulations to UCONN Women's Basketball team on becoming Champions!! And to the Men's Basketball team for a great season.

* Shepaug Baseball 2009 Book is out with an ad from Parks and Rec with a team picture from the "archives"... can you identify the coaches and players?!

* Happy Birthday to Holly Haas!

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Land Use Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk