**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**December 9, 2019**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Whitney Ryan, Alice Demeo.

Coordinator Jeff Hammond; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Joe Fredlund called the meeting to order at 5:36p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Holiday in the Depot:** Jeff Hammond reported that everything is on track. As Washington Montessori chorus had informed Jeff they would not be able to perform this year, the Washington Primary School chorus will sing on the front steps of Town Hall. This year, the Lucky Dog Food Truck will be near the Judy Black Park. Jeff checked with the WBA who did not have a problem with their coming. As the Boy Scouts traditionally sell hot dogs and chili at Legion Hall, the food truck has agreed to not serve these items and has volunteered to donate a portion of the money taken in to the Boy Scouts in the event business is taken away from them. The Parks and Rec Facebook page has had 25,000 views for Holiday in the Depot with 1200 responses. Jeff reminded the commissioners to be on hand in the Town Hall front drive to clear the way for Santa’s arrival. Linda Williams will light the Christmas Tree.
* **River Walk Park:** Jeff has asked the Commissioners to begin thinking of a new maintenance building at the Park as budget season will be approaching. There will be further discussion as to the best way to proceed – prefab building? demolishing the present building? placement? The first step will be to discuss with the Buildings and Properties Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **2020 Meeting Schedule:** The Commission approved the following meeting dates for 2020: January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, September 14, October 5, November 9, December 14.
* **Request for AED Devices:** Mike Croft of Shepaug’s athletic department has requested an AED be placed at the Pavilion (sport teams use the grounds). Jeff is looking into “In a Heart Beat Organization” to see if we would qualify for a grant. The Commissioners felt one should be placed at the Town Beach as well.
* **Outdoor Fitness Court:** The National Fitness Campaign approached Jeff about various stations being installed that would allow people to do weight based training. They would give $30,000 toward the $130,000 total cost. The Commissioners felt that funds of that amount would be better utilized for the installation of a pickle ball court and/or Senior/Community Center.
* **Fire & Ice Winter Festival:** Still in the planning stages, the event will take place on February 22, 2020 at the Town Hall from 3:00-7:00p.m. Hopefully there will be ice carving demonstrations and perhaps smaller blocks for the public to carve. The Lucky Dog Food Truck has offered to come as well as the National Iron Bank’s snack truck. More details to follow.
* **Concerts:** The summer concert will be held on July 11th (not July 4th as attendance the last two years has not been good.) More details to follow. There was also discussion of holding a concert in late April or early May perhaps combining with a beer/wine/distillery tasting. The Billy Joel concert will again be held in September.

**COORDINATOR’S REPORT:** Jeff Hammond submitted the following:

Holiday in the Depot

This year’s event will be on Friday, December 13th. Mostly business as usual. I am looking for commission members to help with making sure driveway is clear for Santa’s arrival, handing out glow necklaces and taking turns monitoring the line for Santa. Tree lights have been hung and tested so we are good to go there. After speaking with Lisa Stein for the WBA, I have agreed to allow Lucky Dog food truck to come to the event this year. They will be setting up in the plaza near Judy Black. Because the Boy Scouts do hot dogs and chili, I have asked this food truck to not serve those items. They are local and out of Roxbury and just looking to get involved with local events. They do a lot of the events in Roxbury already. They have also offered to donate a portion of their proceeds to the Boy Scouts in the event that any business is lost as a result of them being there. All that said, I’d like to ask that in your travels that evening, keep an eye on them. Are they busy? Are folks saying good things about the food and service? Any feedback would be appreciated.

Fire and Ice: A Winter Festival

We will be moving forward with this event. We need to set a firm date so that we can plan accordingly (mid/late February). I have made some preliminary contacts with someone about an ice sculpting demo and am waiting for a callback on the ice. As discussed, the idea is to have it in front of Town Hall. We will have fire pits in the circle and ice sculpting in the front lawn. If there is snow, we can add additional activities. I have also mentioned this event to Lucky Dog. They would be willing to come. They are flexible on menu options so we can request something if desired. We also need to discuss timing. To view ice sculptures, it would be better during daytime hours but fires would be better at night. I’m thinking maybe 2-6 or 3-7? Duration will also depend on activities. Should be have music playing? Plenty more to discuss here…

Outdoor Fitness Court

I recently spoke to someone with the National Fitness Campaign. They are interested in working with us to install a fitness court. I think this is a great idea. I have spoken to Deb Andrews and Peter Houldin and both agree that it would be great to have, use and teach classes at. The only real obstacle is funding. We would need to come up with $100,000. Why this costs so much, I can’t say. Is this something we want to pursue? Can we find donors? Should we request a portion from the Town and seek to get matching contributions?

Concerts

I’d like to set a rough calendar for concerts next year. Going forward, once we have a basic outline, we can use the same schedule. As previously discussed, I believe we have decided to pass on the 4th of July event and instead, have a concert with food trucks and such a week or so after the holiday. Justin at National Iron Bank would like to sponsor Frankie Justin, a rising country singer. Also, I have been approached by another country band, Country Steel. It looks like they do a lot of cover songs but they sound pretty good. That said, I don’t want to do all country so we need to identify some other options and see if we can get things scheduled.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** C.J. Kersten wished everyone a healthy and happy Holiday Season and good luck to all the winter sports teams.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk