**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**January 13, 2020**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Carrie Rowe, Whitney Ryan, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook. Coordinator Jeff Hammond; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Budget Meeting:** Prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, the Commissioners discussed budget needs for the upcoming 2020-2021 Fiscal year. The General Fund remains basically unchanged except for some minor increase adjustments. Jeff Hammond presented several ideas for a new maintenance shed at the River Walk Park. This will be discussed further and funding from the Capital Fund will most likely be requested.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:00p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.

**GUEST: Kenyon Clark – Tennis Court Usage:** Kenyon attended this evening’s meeting to discuss creating pickle ball courts on the newly resurfaced tennis courts at the Washington Primary School. Kenyon explained the increasing interest in the sport and how the courts could easily be incorporated into the existing courts, offering his assistance in marking the courts and/or offering clinics for children and adults. Purchasing the nets and paddles (for loan to those learning) would be the major expense. The Commissioners were all in agreement and it will be discussed further in upcoming meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Holiday in the Depot:** Despite the rainy evening, attendance – especially in the Town Hall to visit with Santa – was similar to past years. Businesses saw some decrease in the numbers but were generally pleased with the evening. There was some discussion about having the Lucky Dog food truck return next year as some felt it hurt the number of people purchasing hot dogs and chili from the boy scouts. Others felt that since they did not sell hot dogs and chili, it was a pleasant addition of food being offered.
* **River Walk Pavilion – New Maintenance Building:** This was discussed earlier in the budget meeting. Jeff Hammond will be obtaining more information on sizes and prices.
* **Fire & Ice Winter Festival:** Jeff reported that he is still waiting to hear from the gentleman who would be doing the ice carving demonstration. For a 2-hour demonstration, he would require 2 300 pound blocks of ice. Given the cost of the ice, getting several smaller blocks for the public to carve will not be in the budget. Further planning of the event will depend on information obtained from the demonstrator. In addition to the carving demonstration, the plan was to

have a food truck, a snack truck provided by National Iron Bank, fire pits and music.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Coordinator’s report:** Jeff Hammond reported the following:
  + Holiday in the Depot: While the rainy evening may have kept folks from strolling around the Depot, our portion of the evening in the main hall was business as usual. Santa arrived via police cruiser instead of the hay wagon which was cancelled due to rain. In general, everyone was happy with the event. Lucky Dog food truck was met with mixed reviews. Those that tried it were very happy with the quality of food and portion sizes. The Boy Scouts were not happy to have that competition. I did indirectly hear that sales were down for them but I can also assume that the bad weather was partially responsible. That said, I will be happy to invite Lucky Dog back to other events and will consider future impacts on having them back for Holiday in the Depot.
  + Fire and Ice: A Winter Festival: I have been speaking with someone regarding the ice carving. It is looking to be more of a process than was originally thought. There is a specific clear ice that is needed. He usually works with 300lb blocks and would require 2 or 3 of them for a 2-hour demo. Purchasing extra blocks, even of a smaller size, may be cost prohibitive. We may not be able to offer a contest for general public.
  + Adult Morning Swim: The swim program is going well and everyone currently swimming is happy with conditions. That said, I have noticed that the core group of swimmers has declined in the last year or so. What this means is that we are currently paying more to staff the program than we are bringing in. I am keeping an eye on this. Unfortunately, if this trend continues, we may have no choice but to increase the monthly fee to swim.
  + Swim Lessons: I have been given a name of a new person potentially interested in teaching lessons. She works for Region 12. None of the previous instructors are able to teach so I’m hoping this will pan out so we may once again, offer swim lessons.
  + Everything Else…I’d like to ask everyone to please keep an eye on our Facebook page. Please share my posts about events and such to help get the word out.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

* **Expression of sympathy to the family of Tim Meeker.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:06p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mar Anne Greene

Clerk