

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
February 7, 2022

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

Meeting held via Zoom.

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Vice-Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners Tim Cook, Greg Kraft, Ray Reich. Coordinator Connie Chapin; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Visitors: Joan & Tasha Lodsins, First Selectman Jim Brinton.

Call to Order: C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Greg Kraft and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Winter Fest '22:** February 12, 2022 12:00p.m.-4:00p.m. hosted by Rumsey Hall School. Headmaster Ian Craig has informed Connie Chapin that they are looking forward to the event and will provide everything needed.
- **WPAL – staffing, numbers:** Connie Chapin reported that there have been some staff coverage issues due to one of the Directors being out because of illness. She and Michelle Gorra have been and will continue to cover if necessary. Another staff member may be hired in the not too distant future. Numbers have remained steady with 15-18 students attending each day. There have been some glitches with billing families but this has been worked out.
- **2021 Summary:** A total of \$22,394 was received in revenue for the year.
- **Summer Staffing:** Connie reported that two instructors have voiced interest in teaching swim lessons and she will be contacting the school regarding reinstating this program. At the present time, there is no Instructor for Summer Swim Team. Connie will be contacting Summer Rec Director Brian McCauley and Beach Director Jeff Cox regarding their willingness to return and staffing.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Jim Brinton – Dog Park:** Jim explained to the Commissioners that there has been interest in establishing a Dog Park in Town for several years. He has met with Michael Gorra and Steep Rock's Executive Director Brian Hagenbuch. Steep Rock has offered 3-4 of their acres adjacent to the Depot Firehouse for the Park. The Park would fall under Parks and Rec and funding for it would need to be put into next fiscal year's budget – additional hours for staffing for maintenance, clean-up, mowing, etc. Jim further explained that he was not asking Parks and Rec to assume full responsibility. The Commissioners, while in favor of the Town having a Dog Park, voiced some concerns until more details are worked out and responsibilities are more clearly defined.
- **Addition of Field Hockey Clinics:** Starting later this month, Jaye Stuart and Berkshire Field Hockey will begin offering a clinic at the Washington Primary School Gymnasium Thursdays

from 3:30-5:00 for 5th-8th graders. Discussion has also begun to hold clinics in June and July at the Frederick Gunn School on their turf field. This is still in the preliminary planning stages.

- **Co-op Football Program:** C.J. Kersten has been approached about starting such a program. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed that they would not be in favor of this at the present time.
- **Extended Boat Ramp Hours-Memorial Day Weekend:** Although the Boat Ramp opens with the opening of fishing season, the hours are limited until early June when it is open 6:00a.m. to sunset Friday through Monday and 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Connie was proposing opening it 6:00a.m.-sunset Memorial Day Weekend. Ray Reich explained that the hours of operation are clearly defined in the Lake Waramaug Agreement. (Note: following the meeting, Connie reviewed the Agreement which does not allow the extension of hours.)
- **Judy Black - March Madness Planning:** Connie has been contacted by Judy Black Park regarding their holding a March Madness event. She has offered to provide guidance but this would not become a Parks and Rec event.
- **Replacement of safety covers on fence tops:** C.J. reported that these covers need to be replaced and some fence repair work needs to be done as well on the Ted Alex Field, and Girls' Softball Field. A short discussion followed regarding finding someone to maintain the Ted Alex, Girls' Softball and other fields (not Ted Alex). This will be discussed further at next month's meeting.
- **Flagpole light** at the Ted Alex Field is broken. Connie will call Eagle Electric to have it repaired.
- **Election of Officers: Motion:** To elect C.J. Kersten as Chairman, Sheila Anson and Tim Cook as Vice-Chairmen for the next year. By Greg Kraft, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: C.J. Kersten and Sheila Anson reported the following:

- **Congratulations to Mary Anne** on the birth of her grandson Sully in Colorado.
- **Welcome to Joe Hamel** Washington's New Resident Trooper and Mike Epps who will be appointed as School Resource Officer later this month.
- **Thank you Highway Department** for keeping the roads safe through ice and snow and rain storms.
- **Thank you Superintendent Megan Bennett** for keeping our school children safe.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:21p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk