

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
April 14, 2014

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

Present:

Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Whitney Ryan, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook.
Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.
Guest: Wes Gladding.

Call to Order:

Vice-Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Beach & Boat Launch:**
- Caretakers Chris and Leah Papsin have signed the Beach House lease for another year. Otherwise, no report.
-
- **River Walk Park:**
- The Pavilion is scheduled for opening tomorrow, April 15, 2014. When turning on the water, a leak was discovered in the wall of the kitchen – this will hopefully be repaired by tomorrow or shortly thereafter allowing the bathrooms and kitchen to be up and running. Groundskeeper Wes Gladding has returned to work for the season. Wes attended this evenings meeting to discuss the number of hours per week he is to work. He asked the Commissioners to consider adding more hours to his work week as he feels it is difficult to perform all the duties required to keep the Park looking its best with the number of hours he is scheduled to work. He will pick up some of Pavilion Attendant Liz Gugels hours when she is out on medical leave. Normally, Wes works 15 hours per week, Liz 10. He will begin working 20 hours until Liz's return. The Commissioners explained to Wes that currently he will need to stay within the scheduled hours as this is what has been approved in the Town's budget. Also discussed was the possible need of hiring a very part-time person to meet with individuals who have rented the Pavilion prior to their event. Tim Cook reported on the STEAP Grant which was sent into the State today. The application is for \$225,000 for the repair and expansion of the Joe Martin Field, the construction of a half-field and construction of a maintenance garage. In addition, to raise the additional funds required to do all the necessary field work, Tim has spoken with Matt Adams re: holding a benefit auction and has been working on a fundraising brochure.
-
- **Motion:**
- To authorize an expenditure of no more than \$300 for a brochure to be used for fundraising (once the brochure has been approved by the Commission).
- By Sheila Anson, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.
-
- **2014-2015 Budget:**
- The Commissioners and/or Lisa Easter will follow up with the Selectmen and Board of Finance regarding budget requests that were made for the next fiscal year.

-
- **Bus Trips:**
- The Commissioners discussed with Lisa Easter the problem with bus trips not covering costs – very often a certain number of tickets need to be purchased ahead of time – if they don't all sell, there is a loss. If the price per person is increased to cover this deficit, it may make the trip prohibitive for some. To address this, Lisa has been working with Warren and Roxbury to co-sponsor trips.
-
- **Babysitting Course:**
- The scheduled course was cancelled by the instructor due to illness. More information will follow when this is rescheduled.
-
- **CT Trails Day:**
- No report.
-
- **Commission Vacancy:**
- Commissioners were reminded to invite possible interested candidates to the May meeting.
-
- **Jason Spooner Concert:**
- The concert has been rescheduled to August 16, 2014. Whitney Ryan and C.J. Kersten are planning to meet with Resident Trooper Steve Sordi to discuss the number of police needed (too many last year). Jason has requested that Michael Lombardi open the show. He has sent a link to Michael's music for Whitney and others to listen to. The Commissioners will be asked to take on specific jobs for the Concert at the June meeting. Whitney has asked Lisa Easter to process the request for payment for Jason's deposit.
-
- **Fourth of July:**
- This year the 4th is on a Friday – therefore there will be a rain date of Saturday, July 5th. Ray will speak with Roger Cannavaro re: having Flashback perform. Leah Gollow Smith has contacted Ray about the Shepaug Class of 1989 Reunion which is also scheduled for the weekend of the 4th. The class would like the road race, fireworks, etc. incorporated into their plans. Stephen Reich was a member of this class. The issue of people needing to use last year's passes, how to get that word out, and the lack of availability of tickets being purchased for this year was discussed – Ray will be contacting VIP pass holders. Cyndy Brissett has done the t-shirt design.
-
- **Personnel Committee:**
- Sheila Anson suggested that Commissioners review all job descriptions for P & R employees and evaluations of these employees be done in the Fall. The job descriptions will be reviewed and updated after next month's meeting and an evaluation system also developed. A committee will be formed to do the evaluations.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

- **Master's Swim Classes:** Thursdays through June 12th.
-
- **Working with Warren Rec:**

- Yankees vs. Red Sox game – June 27th – 5 seats left. Warren would also like to share a bus for the Yankees vs. Indians game on August 10th.
-
- **Summer Rec:**
- June 30th-July 25th. Expanding enrollment to include 6th grade. Marisabel returning as Arts & Crafts teacher and will also hold an afternoon Arts & Crafts camp.
-
- **Afternoon Camps:**
- Lego Camp – June 30 – July 3; Art Camp – July 7 – 11; Multi-Sport Camp – July 14 – 18; How Cool is That?!-Science Camp – July 21 – 25.
-
- **Other Camps:**
- Dimensions Basketball Camp – July 7 – 11; Spartan Hoop School – July 28 – August 2; Sport Squirts Camp – July 14 – 18. Camps not heard from yet: Ace Baseball, Berkshire Field Hockey Camp, Tennis Lessons, August Multi Sport Camp, and new (hopefully) late afternoon – Lacrosse Camp.
-
- **Babysitter Class:**
- See above.
-
- **VOICES Advertisement:**
- Discussion about placing a Parks and Rec ad in the centerfold of VOICES with upcoming programs, etc: Commissioners felt they did not want to ask local merchants to pay for ads as they are asked so often during the year by various organizations. It was decided Lisa would contact VOICES to ascertain the cost of placing an ad in the centerfold.
-
- **Motion:**
- To approve up to \$500 from the Parks and Rec checking account to place an ad in the centerfold of VOICES. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.
-
- **Bowling Alley “Ribbon Cutting”:**
- Work in the lower level of the Town Hall is completed and the commissioners felt that if the alley needed refinishing and trim painted, this should be done. They toured the alley following the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bowling Alley:** See above.
-
- **VOICES ad:** See above.
-
- **Steep Rock/Parks & Rec co-sponsoring of programs:**
- Louise Van Tartwijk – Steep Rock Outreach Committee – has asked Whitney Ryan about Parks and Rec co-sponsoring programs for youth in the fall. The Commissioners suggested she be invited to May or June’s meeting.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: C.J. Kersten reported the following:

- **Best of luck** to all Spring Sports teams in the Region.
-
- **Congratulations** to Charlie Ryan on his qualifying for the US Rowing Junior National High Performance Camp!
-

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk