**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**February 11, 2019**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Whitney Ryan, Joe Fredlund, Ray Reich, Alice Demeo, Sheila Anson, Tim Cook, Carrie Rowe. Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

**Visitor:**

* **Bear Van Asch Van Wyck** attended this evening’s meeting to discuss the possibility of holding an antiques show at the River Walk Pavilion July 27 & 28, 2019 as there is no longer the Washington Antiques Show. Set up would be July 25 & 26. There would be approximately 15-18 dealers – invited to participate by Bear (a longtime Washington resident). The amount collected through the admission fee would be donated to a local charity. The Commissioners reminded Bear that bathrooms would still be open to the public and the fields may be in use. They thanked him for attending and agreed to discuss and inform him of their decision. Following discussion, the Commissioners made the following **Motion:** To approve the rental of the River Walk Pavilion July 25 – 29, 2019 by Bear Van Asch Van Wyck for the purpose of an antiques show. Any future request to rent the Pavilion for this purpose would be evaluated and discussed separately. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Mother Daughter Workshop Recap:** Whitney Ryan reported that the Workshop went very well with 5 mother/daughter couples attending. It has sparked interest and she has had requests to present it again.
* **Winter Festival Final Preparations:** The Winter Festival is scheduled for Friday, February 15 from 5:00-7:00p.m. Unfortunately, the weather prediction is for rain. It was decided that Whitney Ryan would contact Sportsmen’s and cancel their coming with snowshoes. The decision as to whether or not the event will be cancelled will be made on Wednesday.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Casino Trip:** March 17, 2019 to MGM Springfield Casino. $35 per person.

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

**Budget 2019-2020:**

I believe this year’s budget requests were well received. As we were the first to meet with the Selectmen, time will tell if our requests, both capital and general fund, will be approved.

**Winter Festival:**

As you all know, our Winter Festival reboot is happening on Friday, February 15th from 5-7pm. Cross your fingers for favorable weather conditions! We are set with hot cocoa, National Iron Bank s’mores and Averill Farm hot cider. At Monday’s meeting, I will bring the portable speaker and string lights. Please get out there and talk it up with folks around town!

**Casino Trip:**

This year we are headed to the new MGM Springfield! The date will be Sunday, March 17th (St. Patrick’s Day) The bus will leave the plaza at 2:30pm and return at approx. 11pm. The cost is $35. As has been the trend in recent years, we still have plenty of space on the bus. Please help spread the word.

**Spring Swim Lessons:**

Unfortunately, due to a change in schedule with Mo and the closing of the pool as soon as school is out, she will be unable to teach spring lessons this year. I hope that she may be able to rejoin the program next year if schedules allow. I have reached out to several people “in the business” to look for a replacement. So far, I have received one letter of interest via Facebook. After meeting with her I am now waiting for confirmation that a workable schedule is possible.

**Summer Rec Outlook:**

I have touched base with Brian, our Camp Director. He is excited for another year of camp. He is in the process of contacting last year’s staff to determine who will be returning and if we will need to hire additional counselors. I have also scheduled the Lego Camp again this year. As usual, that will be held the last week of June, prior to the start of our Summer Rec Camp.

**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:** C.J. Kersten reported:

* **Condolences to the family of Ruth Alex.** She led a life to be remembered and celebrated.
* **Happy Birthday, February 14th to Whitney Ryan.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:30p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk