**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**January 15, 2015**

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

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman C. J. Kersten called the regular meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. following a Commission “budget workshop”.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 8, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

**Visitor:**

* **Deborah Andrews** attended this evenings meeting to propose to the Commission her purchasing a permanent “pull-up” station to be installed along River Walk. The Commission would take care of installing in a location agreed upon (proposed location is between the River Walk and tennis courts). The Commissioners were in agreement to accept Deb’s proposal pending approval by the Buildings and Properties Commission which will be meeting on January 28th. Joe Fredlund (a member of the B & P Commission) will present the proposal.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Beach/Boat Launch:** Ray Reich discussed upgrades he would like to see happen at the beach area: replacement of the lifeguard chair, the “rules” sign, and the addition of three new picnic tables. This was also discussed in the budget workshop held prior to this meeting. Boat Ramp Manager, Hank Vallely, has submitted his 2014 report stating all went very well. The Commission thanked Hank for his dedication and professionalism in overseeing the Ramp and the attendants.
* **River Walk Park:** it was noted that chips are needed for under the playground equipment (and also at the Nick Platt playground). **Motion:** To approve an expenditure of up to $2,000 for safety chips for the playgrounds. By Tim Cook, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved. Joe Fredlund will follow up with the Buildings and Properties Commission re: damage that was done to the ceiling of the Pavilion when the floor was re-done.
* **Bocce Court:** C.J. Kersten, Mike Gorra and Joe Fredlund will meet to discuss this further.
* **Holiday in the Depot/Tree Lighting:** Another huge success! There was some discussion regarding keeping children back from the horse drawn buggy when Santa arrives at the Town Hall.
* **Winterfest:** Whitney Ryan reported this event is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the River Walk Pavilion. In addition to snowshoeing (Sportsmen’s of Litchfield supplying snowshoes) there will be games, fire pits, s’mores, hot chocolate, etc. Lisa Easter and Whitney will be working on the flyer and advertising. The event will be held with or without snow.
* **Budget:** The Commissioners held a workshop prior to this meeting to discuss budget needs for the 15-16 fiscal year.
* **Family Swim:** Will be held Tuesday afternoon, January 20th at the Shepaug pool. Mo VanMoffaert will be present.

**COORDINATOR’S REPORT:** Lisa Easter reported the following:

* **Boot Camp:** Ongoing Tuesday and Thursday mornings 5:45 a.m. – Deborah Andrews, Coach.
* **Bus Trip:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 – Yankees vs. Red Sox at Yankee Stadium. Price, etc. to be determined.
* **Jason Spooner Concert:** no confirmed date at this time.
* **Karate:** Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays at Washington Montessori School.
* **Master’s Swim Program:** Classes started January 7th from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. and will be held until March 11th. Class is full.
* **Open Skate & Learn to Skate & Hockey:** Information for hockey and Learn to Skate is available on the [www.nwcyh.com](http://www.nwcyh.com) website. Free Family Skate started November 17th and is held every Sunday from 4:45 – 7:00 p.m. through March 1st at the Gunnery Hockey Rink. $5 person/session or $145/family for the season.
* **Summer Rec Camps**: Started to schedule. More information to come.
* **Reminder of need to sign waivers:** Someprograms, such as Boot Camp, need to remember to have participants sign the sign-in sheet and waiver indicating the Town will not be held liable for injuries each time they attend.
* **Classes:** Lisa would like to attend a course on Human Resources and a course on using Photo Shop. The Commissioners approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Boat Ramp Annual Report:** see above under Beach/Boat Launch.
* **Archery Classes:** NW Sporting Goods in Winsted has asked if Parks and Rec would like to sponsor classes held at their Winsted location. The Commission (Town) would receive a 10% “kickback”. Following discussion it was agreed to assist with advertising if requested, but not to sponsor. Lisa will look into the possibility of their offering a camp in the summer.
* **Website:** Carrie Rowe expressed her feeling that the Parks and Rec Commission’s page on the Town’s website could be improved and enhanced providing program information on ongoing programs as well as upcoming events and new programs; information on the Commission’s assistance and participation in other events and happenings such as assisting with the Holiday Baskets distributed to individuals and families at Thanksgiving and Christmas; photos, links for volunteers, etc. Lisa was very appreciative of suggestions and offers to assist with this “upgrade”.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** C. J. Kersten wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the many individuals who contributed to another successful and event-packed year for Parks and Rec.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk