**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**February 17, 2015**

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

**Present:** Chairman C. J. Kersten, Commissioners Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Whitney Ryan, Carrie Rowe, Sheila Anson. Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Beach/Boat Launch:** Ray Reich reported this is a quiet time of year at the beach and had no report.
* **River Walk Park:** Sheila Anson reported that the wreath had been taken off the chimney in the Pavilion, wood had been scattered and picnic tables moved. The Commissioners discussed various equipment options that could be used for security. Lisa Easter will contact United Alarm for estimates.
* **Bocce Courts:** C.J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund and Michael Gorra will be meeting after Michael’s hockey season ends. Joe reported that the Buildings and Properties Commission also discussed the placement of the courts – suggesting the side of the Pavilion that faces the playing fields. Carrie Rowe mentioned that the Washington Environmental Council has been working with the newly formed Washington Primary School Environmental Club and as an initiative they would like to create raised flower/vegetable beds in the area of the Pavilion.
* **Winterfest:** Whitney Ryan and Carrie Rowe have met and finalized plans for the February 28th event. Given the weather over the last few weeks, there will be snow☺! Sportsmen’s of Litchfield will be bringing 10 pair of snowshoes. Several Commissioners will bring extra pairs as well. Various games and races have been planned. Thank you to the Washington Supply Co. for donating four sleds. Heidi Johnson has been asked to take pictures. Advertising of the event has been done – an article in Litchfield County Times, posters throughout Town, information distributed to schools, etc. The Commissioners discussed various job assignments, items to be brought to the Pavilion and food to be purchased and agreed to be at the Pavilion by 12:30 p.m.
* **Budget:** Lisa Easter has been notified by Larry Cable that the gator will need to have some work done prior to the upcoming spring season. He will get costs of parts that may be needed. The Commissioners reviewed the proposed 2015-2016 budget and Lisa explained changes made since their budget workshop. There was discussion about changing the hours of the boat ramp from “sunrise to sunset” in the spring and summer to set hours as well as having someone cover the time in between. The Commissioners also discussed the possibility of raising the fee for the boat permits from $25 to $30. Summer Recreation Director, Brian McCauley, has suggested the camp be five one-week sessions as opposed to two two-week sessions. Families would have the option of signing up for one week or any number of the five weeks they wished. Presently the fee is $80 for a two-week session. Charging $50/week was discussed.
* **Fourth of July:** Ray Reich and C.J. Kersten met with the representative from Atlas Pyro Vision to discuss this year’s fireworks show. Atlas will again do the show and will adjust the cost to compensate for errors in last year’s show.
* **Bowling Alley:** Joe Fredlund reported that there is a problem with the glue used to lay the tiles in the bowling alley area. The Buildings and Properties Commission is aware. Joe will look into the possibility of having dimmers installed on the lights. Tim Cook has offered to speak with Joe Martin and Harold Stoeffler regarding pictures of Washington that could be put on the walls of the bowling alley.

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

* **BOOT CAMP:** Ongoing Tuesdays and Thursdays at WPS. 5:30 AM!!
* **BUS TRIP-** Saturday, April 11th Yankees vs. Red Sox at Yankee Stadium. We’ll be going to the Casino again in March. Tentatively Sunday March 29th. We’re inviting Warren and Morris and of course the WFM employees (our regulars).
* **KARATE:** Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays at Montessori School.Next session beginsMonday Feb. 16th and Wednesday Feb. 18th for 10 weeks.
* **MASTERS SWIM PROGRAM:** The classes started Jan. 7th from 7-8:30 pm and will be held until March 11th.
* **OPEN SKATE/LEARN TO SKATE & HOCKEY**- All info for hockey and Learn-to-Skate is on the website [www.nwcyh.com](http://www.nwcyh.com). As for Free/Family Skate, it starts Sunday, November 17. 4:45-7pm every Sunday through March 1. $5 per person/session or $145/family for the season.
* **OPEN SWIM:** Tuesday, February 17th from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Fun for the whole family!
* **SPRING SWIM:**  Mo Van Moffaert has given me the dates she wants to have Swim Lessons this spring. I’m waiting to get approval from Region 12 then registrations will go out.
* **SUMMER REC CAMPS** - Have started to form.

So far we have for the afternoon camps: Lego Camp July 6-10; Shark Tank for Guppies July 13-17. Art Camp and Multi Sport Camp TBD. Brian would like to consider a 5 week camp with the first week being a four day camp week (July 3rd is a holiday). This way we could register by the week, and hoping in the first four day week we could offer swim lessons in the afternoon to fill up that time for parents. See above under “budget”.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Summer Concert:** Jason Spooner will not be doing a concert this year but has agreed to do one every other year. The Commissioners will look into other bands for this year.
* **CT Trails Weekend:** CT Woodlands has sent an email with information about this year’s event to be held June 6, 7. It was decided to refer them to Steep Rock Association.
* **WPS Yearbook:** The Primary School has asked if the Parks and Rec Commission would like to help sponsor the yearbook for a $50 charge – a picture can be included (perhaps from Winterfest?). **Motion:** To approve a donation of $50 to the WPS Yearbook. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.
* **Holiday in the Depot:** Pam Goethner has suggested that a digital camera be used to take photos of the children with Santa. Photos can be uploaded to Flickr and can be accessed using a link and #. This will be discussed further.
* **Ping Pong Table:** A resident of Town has offered to donate a ping pong table that “is slightly warped”. The Commission expressed their gratitude but declined the offer.
* **Website:** Carrie Rowe who has volunteered to help keep the Parks and Rec page of the website up-to-date, explained that it is very time consuming and she is concerned that she may not have all the information that should be posted. Lisa can provide the information on upcoming and ongoing programs. Sheila Anson and Mary Anne Greene offered to assist if possible. How to get the information updated weekly will be discussed further.
* **Region #12 employees’ use of pool:** A request has been made to allow Region #12 employees to use the pool free-of-charge. The Commissioners were in agreement to waive the fee charged for Morning Swim for these employees.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Co-Chairmen C.J. Kersten and Sheila Anson reported the following:

* **Happy February Birthdays to Lisa Easter, Whitney Ryan and Claire Kersten!!**

**NEXT MEETING:** Due to Lisa Easter’s taking courses, the March meeting has been changed to **Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk