**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**March 10, 2015**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Whitney Ryan, Carrie Rowe, Tim Cook, Ray Reich; Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mark Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Carrie Rowe and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:**

* **Dominic Gillen,** of Earth Sports, attended this evening’s meeting to discuss the possibility of holding an “indoor” bike class at the WPS Gym and the Pavilion once the weather allows. Participants would bring their own bikes and “trainers”. The class would last approximately one hour and the cost would be determined by any additional costs that may be incurred – i.e. the need for a custodian when held inside at the WPS gym. Dominic is the owner of Earth Sports and is a multi-sport coach. Lisa Easter will look into the use of the gym and the need for a custodian. The Commission unanimously supported sponsoring his program. Dominic would like to hold adult swim lessons and triathlon training for adults and children in the future.
* **Janet Wildman** was not able to attend this evening’s meeting however, spoke with Commissioner Sheila Anson and Coordinator Lisa Easter regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission’s donating funds to non-profit organizations. The Commissioners discussed the fact that any monies “donated” have not come from donations made to the Parks and Rec Commission, or Town funds that are made up of resident’s tax payments. This will be discussed further.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Beach & Boat Launch:** Fishing Season has traditionally begun the third weekend in April. The DEEP notified the Town Clerk and others approximately one week ago, that this year it would begin the second weekend in April. No funds have been budgeted to cover the cost of opening the Boat Launch a week earlier. Therefore, the Boat Launch will open the third weekend in April. The earlier opening will be considered for next year’s budget.
* **River Walk Park:** Sheila Anson reported that she was called on the weekend by the alarm company for an alarm at the Pavilion. Lisa Easter has contacted United Alarm re: installation of a motion detector camera/alarm for the Pavilion. The cost would be $2390. There was discussion regarding making this a capital budget request. Tim Cook and Joe Fredlund will repair the roof on the visitor’s dugout at the Ted Alex Field.
* **Bocce Courts:** C.J. Kersten and Joe Fredlund will meet with Michael Gorra to discuss this further. Carrie Rowe has spoken with the Washington Environmental Council – they will help with the cost of garden boxes that were discussed last month but cannot cover the entire cost.
* **Job Descriptions/Employee Evaluations:** Personnel Committee members Sheila Anson, C.J. Kersten and Ray Reich will review job descriptions and begin meeting with employees next week. These will include the Recreation Coordinator, Pavilion Attendant, Groundskeeper, Camp Director, Boat Ramp Manager and Beach Director. It was also discussed to work on “job descriptions” for the Commissioners.
* **Winterfest:** Huge success! Great feedback from attendees. A special thank you to Sportsmen’s of Litchfieldfor donating the snowshoes and the Washington Supply for the donation of sleds. C.J. Kersten also thanked the Commissioners for all they did to make the first annual Winterfest so successful! Lisa Easter will work on a Letter to the Editor.
* **Budget:** Lisa Easter reported that several members of the Commission and herself met with the Board of Selectmen to present their proposed budget for 2015-2016. Purchasing of screens for the back of the dugout at the Joe Martin Field and River Walk Park tennis courts, bark chips for the playground, replacement of the lifeguard stand and beach sign were also discussed as possible capital budget requests (as well as the upgrading of the alarm system at the Pavilion-mentioned above).
* **Website:** Carrie Rowe reported that swim lessons and the upcoming bus trips have been added and will add pictures from Winterfest.
* **Summer Concert:** Commissioners were asked to inquire about alternative bands for the August concert as Jason Spooner will not be doing it this year. Carrie Rowe offered to look into the band that performed at the WEC dance.
* **Bowling Alley:** Joe Fredlund of the Buildings and Properties Commission advised Sheila Anson that the Commission was discussing changes to the rental policy for the Bowling Alley. The fee will be raised from $25 to $50. The Commission will request they be able to review the final Policy draft before it is adopted. Tim Cook will contact Papa Joe Martin regarding pictures of “old Washington” for the Bowling Alley walls.
* **4th of July:** Ray Reich reported that he has heard back from Atlas Pyro Vision and received a contract for the 2015 fireworks. The contract is slightly different from previous years. Ray has asked Town Attorney David Miles to review the contract prior to returning it. Atlas Pyro Vision has offered to discount this year’s show by $6,000 because of the problems incurred last year.

**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 has 10 from Washington signed up to date. Mohegan Sun Casino March 29th has 35 people signed up so far.
* **KARATE:** Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays at Montessori School.Next session beginsin May for10 weeks.
* **MASTERS SWIM PROGRAM:** The classes started Jan. 7th from 7-8:30 pm and will be held until March 11th. I’m sure to hear from John Moisan soon.
* **OPEN SWIM:** Tuesday, February 17th from 1:30 – 3:00 pm.
* **SPRING SWIM:**  Registrations are out!

Mondays from March 23 to May 4th (no class 4/6 & 13)

Fridays from April 24th to May 22nd. Family Swim from 5:45 to 7:00pm.

Tuesdays from May 5th to June 2nd.

Sign-ups are coming in…..

* **SUMMER REC CAMPS** - Have started to form.

So far we have for the afternoon camps: Possible Tennis Camp June 29th – July 2nd; Lego Camp July 6-10; Shark Tank for Guppies July 13-17. Art Camp from July 20th to 24th; and Multi Sport Camp TBD. In the budget, we put in the salaries for a 5 week camp with the first week being a four day camp week (July 3rd is a holiday). We will register by the week.

* **SUMMER SWIM LESSONS** - We’re offering Summer Swim Lessons again this summer!! We haven’t be able to run them with the pool closures for the past two summers. Mo is working on dates.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Election of Officers:** The Commissioners unanimously voted the following slate:

**Chairman:** C.J .Kersten; **Vice-Chairman:** Sheila Anson; **Treasurer:** Laura Martin.

* **Kayak and Canoe Demonstrations/SUP Yoga:** Whitney Ryan will speak with Sportsmen’s of Litchfield regarding their running these programs through Parks and Rec.

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

* **SPRING –** All are looking forward to its arrival ☺
* **Congratulations to Charlie Ryan** on his finishing 8th internationally in the Junior Men’s Heavyweight Rowing Indoor World Championships!!

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk