**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**May 14, 2018**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook, Alice Demeo, Ray Reich, Whitney Ryan, Sheila Anson, Greg Kraft (alternate). Coordinator Jeff Hammond; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:34p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 9, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **River Walk Park/Fields:** Jeff Hammond reported that the new groundskeeper, Jesse Travers, began work last week. Currently he is working 7:00a.m.-12:00 noon. He has started the spring cleanup of the Park and Pavilion areas. The back door to the Pavilion and the divider in the men’s room will be painted. The Little Free Library and wall of the Pavilion by the grill area have been sprayed for borer bees. The scoreboard for the Dick Ayer Field has been ordered. Meadowview has provided an estimate for liming fields. As it is within budget figures, Jeff has given the OK to apply in June. Jeff reported that the gator may need to be replaced in the next couple of years – this will be a capital budget item.
* **Beach/Boat Ramp:** Jeff reported that all is going smoothly at the boat ramp. He has been in contact with Beach Director, Jeff Cox, who is working on the lifeguard schedule. The beach will open May 26th for weekends, and starting June 23rd will be open daily. Ray Reich reported that the swimming dock may be in need of repair. Joe Fredlund will contact Beach Caretaker, Chris Papsin.
* **4th of July:** Greg Kraft reported that Salem Church may be interested in providing food for the July 4th picnic at the Pavilion. He will know more after a June 2nd meeting. The band Flashback will be playing. There is no rain date. There was some discussion as to whether or not the picnic could be a fundraising opportunity for groups such as the scouts, schools. Jeff reported that the Washington Fire Department Auxiliary will have a table – most likely baked goods. May just keep it at that for this year.
* **Activities/Events:** **Moonlight Walk** will take place May 29th at the Macricostas Preserve at 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Steep Rock Association. **Bus Trip** to the 9/11 Memorial is scheduled for July 28th - $55/per person. **Shepaug Baseball Tournament-**possibility of hiring a school bus to the State finals if the Shepaug baseball team remains undefeated was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Pavilion Security:** Jeff Hammond met with Fire Control Services regarding installing a new security system at the Pavilion that would “record” the area 24/7 and stores the footage for up to 2 months. The system could be armed and disarmed remotely from cell phones and notifications can be sent to phones as well. The cost for installation and setup is $3950and the monthly fee would be $30 ($20 less than the current fee). Funds for the installation are in the proposed 2018-2019 General Fund budget.
* **Activities/Events:** Jeff will contact the Washington Environment Council and Washington Business Association regarding the Fall Festival. There was also discussion of possibly having a concert – on the Town Hall steps/lawn in late summer or early Fall.

**COORDINATOR’S REPORT:** Jeff Hammond reported the following:

Spring Swim Lessons

After a sluggish early enrollment, as has been the trend, the classes did fill up to near normal levels. Session 1, the Tuesday classes were consolidated from 3 time slots to 1 due to low enrollment though.

Summer Rec and Camps

Camp registration forms have been distributed through the school. A few have started to come in but no real numbers to report yet. I have updated the forms and posted information online regarding the relocation of camps to the primary school this year. I am looking into the possibility of having a bus trip to Mt. Tom every week of camp to help make up for no pool access. All directors will be returning along with many counselors and CITs. We will be conducting a few interviews in the near future to fill a couple open spots.

Bus Trips

As previously mentioned, at the request of the WVFD, I have set up a trip to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum for Saturday, July 28th. I gave the fire department until the end of April, to sign up their family and friends before opening it to the general public. At this time, I only have 7 reserved seats. I ask that you all please help to spread the word so we won’t have to cancel. The bus will leave at 8am and return at approx. 7pm. Tickets will cost $55 and include: transportation, driver gratuity, and ticket into museum.

Field Manager Position

Please join me in welcoming Jesse Travers to the Parks & Rec team. I feel that he will make a great addition and hope that, as he grows into the position, the position will continue to grow with him. While he will have a set routine of tasks to accomplish during his daily shift, I am looking to make a list of other items for him to tackle as time allows. Please let me know if you have any ideas for the list that I can look into.

4th of July

Flashback is confirmed for Wednesday, July 4th. They had previously booked an event on July 7th so unfortunately, we do not have a rain date option. As previously mentioned in an email, the Fire Department is not interested in cooking. Is Salem Church still an option?

Moonlight Hike

Thank you Whit for reaching out to and working with Steep Rock to put together the “Moonlight Hike”. On Tuesday May 29th, Rory from Steep Rock will be leading folks on a hike at the Macricostas Preserve under a full moon. The hike is scheduled to begin at 8pm and estimated to finish around 9:30. During the hike he will be talking about the history of the preserve.

Everything Else…

A replacement scoreboard has been ordered for Dick Ayer Field. From time of ordering it was estimated to take 4 weeks to receive. Meadowview has been contacted to proceed with a lime application on the ball fields. Their assessment was that it would mainly be a maintenance application with Dick Ayer needing a little more attention. 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 the following:

* **Congratulations to the undefeated Shepaug Baseball Team!**
* **Happy Birthday** to Coordinator Jeff’s wife, Vanessa!

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:25p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk