**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**July 17, 2017**

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

**Present:** Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook, Carrie Rowe. Coordinator Jeff Hammond; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:40p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Beach and Boat Launch: 1)** Jeff Hammond reported that the Inland Wetlands Commission approved the application for new sand at the Town Beach. Highway Director, Kevin Smith, will notify Jeff when the sand will be delivered so that the Land Use Enforcement Officer can be given the 48 hour notification prior to its being installed at the beach.

**2)** Beach Caretaker, Chris Papsin has reported that the wooden picnic tables at the beach are in deteriorating condition and suggested they be replaced with metal ones similar to those already at the beach. Jeff has looked into tables made of a composite material that would be lighter than the metal and come in a variety of styles and sizes. **Motion:** To approve up to $2500 for the purchase of new picnic tables. By Ray Reich, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

**3)** Beach Director Jeff Cox has reported a smaller lifeguard staff this season but the guards who have returned are happy for the extra hours and all is running smoothly.

**4)** Boat Launch staff members had requested an umbrella for shade. Joe Fredlund reported that it has been purchased and installed.

* **Nick Platt Field:** Ray Reich reported that a corner area of the field is overgrown with weeds. C.J. Kersten will speak with Dave Swanson about cleaning that area up. Jeff Hammond reported that the play area could use 40 more yards of wood chips. It was also mentioned that a lacrosse team may be using the field. This will be looked into to see if this is an organized group and if insurance is necessary that it is received.
* **River Walk Park: 1)** Sheila Anson reported that the Swanson Horrigan Tournament went very well and was a huge success. **2)** There was discussion about repairing the roof on the softball field dug out. Tim Cook offered to take care of this. **3)** There was also discussion of replacing the door to the storage room at the Pavilion with double doors making it easier to get the tables, chairs, grill, etc. out. **Motion:** To approve up to $1500 to install a double door on the storage room. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Carrie Rowe. Discussion: Joe Fredlund will contact F & O who recently did work at the Beach House and Town Hall and provided an estimate for this job.The motion passed unanimously. **4)** Larry Cable will repair the gate. **5)**  Debbie Andrews,Boot Camp Instructor, contacted C.J. Kersten re: the possibility of installing a temporary storage structure (at her expense) in the vicinity of the existing storage building for storage of her equipment. The Commissioners discussed the possible need for a more permanent structure (attached to the existing building) that could house other Parks and Rec equipment as well. This will be discussed further at a future date.
* **Bocce Courts:** The Commissioners discussed ideas of promoting the Bocce Court, locations of balls, security, etc. Jeff Hammond suggested his promoting the court through the website, Facebook, etc. Sheila Anson offered to contact Lou Magnoli re: his instructing at a “clinic”. It was also suggested that a plaque be placed on the court acknowledging the groups and individuals who made construction of the court possible.
* **Concerts:** At the June meeting it was decided to hold an Oktoberfest concert rather than a concert in August. Carrie Rowe, Whitney Ryan and Tim Cook will organize the event. Jeff Hammond has contacted Roger Cannavaro and his band, The Regulators, is available October 14th. There was discussion as to food, food trucks, time etc. These details will be discussed further at the next meeting.
* **5K Recap:** The July 4th Stephen Reich Memorial Freedom Run was a huge success with 150 runners registered – including a large number of families. There was discussion of holding a separate “Kid’s Run” prior to the adult run. Carrie Rowe offered to organize this.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Recreation Coordinator’s Report:**

**July 2017**

**What’s Happening?**

Summer Camp is in full swing!

With a slow start to the season and the cancellation of LEGO Camp due to unusually low numbers, our Summer Rec Camp is in its second week now and numbers have been steadily rising since the week before camp started. Week one had approx. 40 campers. Week two has reached about 50 and we may see even more for the last two weeks. At this time, our afternoon multisport camp scheduled for the week of July 24th only has one camper signed up. (This camp has also now been cancelled.) Attendance is solid in the rest of the afternoon camps as well as the August camps but it is looking like this camp will also be cancelled due to low enrollment.

4th of July:

Being my first year at the Stephen Reich 5K Freedom Run on the morning of the 4th, I didn’t know quite what to expect. I’d heard stories and was told, don’t worry, it’ll be fine, it always works out. And it did. We had 150 participants plus several other folks who just came down to be there. Everyone had a great time. Timing and record keeping went smoothly as well as the award ceremony. In the time we have until next year’s event, we will look into options for changing the award/trophy as well as potential advertising.

Everything Else:

I can safely say that our BBQ/Picnic recognizing the efforts of the Highway Department went very well. Clint Anderson provided a great mix of beef, pork, and turkey and Market’s sides were well liked. Dancing, Drinks and even a game of bocce added to a great afternoon. The torrential rains that came around 6 pm didn’t bother anyone either.

The beach and boat ramp are both operating smoothly now that they are open every day.

I recently posted something on Facebook about the potential for a float parade next 4th of July. At this time it has reached over 1400 people and most comments are positive.

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.

Until Next Month,

Jeff Hammond

Parks & Rec Coordinator

* Jeff also discussed the Commission using the information gained through the Town’s request in tax bills for email address information. He would like to use this for mailer blasts to be used for program information, registration, payment etc. Carrie Rowe suggested he look into Woodbury’s Parks and Rec website which she feels is excellent.
* **4th of July 2018 – Float Parade:** After the first of the year, Jeff would begin to promote this new activity by asking for suggestions for a float theme. Once this is voted on, participants would have 6 months to develop and build their floats. The parade would form behind the Town Hall and work its way to the Pavilion where the event would finish with awards, a concert and barbecue. He has asked for feedback on the idea on Parks and Rec’s Facebook page and has received over 1900 “likes” and views!
* **Commission Vacancy:** Jeff will post information on the vacancy and ask for interested parties to contact the Town. The Republican and Democratic Town Committees will also be notified.

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

* **Condolences** to the families of Bob Borger and Eben Kimball.
* **Happy July Birthdays** Joe Fredlund, Tammy Marquis, Mary Anne Greene, Tim Cook and Carrie Rowe.
* **Best Wishes** to Lauren and Scott Werkhoven on the upcoming birth of their fourth child.

**Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:43p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk