**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**January 14, 2019**

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

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. following a budget workshop at 5:30p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Holiday in the Depot:** With weather cooperating, the event went very well. The number of children kept Santa very busy!
* **Wellness Events:** Whitney Ryan will be presenting a Mother/Daughter workshop at the Gunn Library on February 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. (snow date February 14th).
* **Winter Festival:** February 15, 2019, 5:00-7:00p.m. at the River Walk Pavilion. If there is snow, Sportsmen’s of Litchfield will be offering snow shoes and instruction. Fire pits, s’mores, hot chocolate… community gathering.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Martin Luther King Day of Giving:** Sponsored by Washington Business Association and the Judy Black Park. Various activities and opportunities for “giving” throughout the day at area businesses.
* **Alternate Greg Kraft** has stepped down from this “alternate” position with an offer to return should a vacancy occur on the Commission for a full member. The Commission thanked Greg for the contributions and support he has provided.

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

Holiday in the Depot Recap

Another successful event! The weather held and plenty of folks showed up. Santa was busy for the entire event making sure to give every child time and attention.

Budget 2019-2020

As we will be discussing on Monday, I am anticipating keeping the budget pretty flat this year. Due to some adjustments in summer rec programs there will be a slight decrease in those lines while I am looking to increase the summer concert line to allow us more opportunities to offer free concerts. Beyond those items, the budget increase will mainly consist of staff cost of living raises. We will discuss capital request including a new utility vehicle for the pavilion.

Spring Swim Lessons

I have reached out to Mo asking if she will be available this spring as she had previously indicated. I am waiting to hear back from her.

Summer Rec Outlook

Due to shrinking numbers and the cancellation of multiple camps last year as well as the lack of use of Shepaug facilities, I am entertaining the idea of only offering our core summer rec camp from 9-1 and not offering a corresponding afternoon camp during the month of July. I plan to offer at least one stand-alone camp in August, the standup paddleboard camp. Thoughts?

New Event Idea

I have been thinking about the idea of a “Boat Float” event. It would involve kids, families, etc. to make miniature boats/floats of any design. The event would probably have to take place at the town beach since we don’t really have access to a large pond. I’m thinking the event will start right after the beach closes for the day on the Saturday or Sunday of labor day weekend. The idea being to have a final send-off for the beach season. We can have a food truck come to serve dinner and then the idea is that each boat is fitted with a tea light and launched at dusk. After a short time floating, or when it’s dark, a couple volunteers can go out and collect them. Thoughts?

Everything Else…

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:

* **Sympathy to the Fredlund family** on the passing of Joe’s aunt.
* **Sympathy to the Johnson family** on the passing of Dick Johnson-a long time active member of the community and Fire Department.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:00p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk