**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**March 11, 2019**

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

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

Visitors: Michelle Gorra and Michael Gorra.

**Call to Order:** Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Carrie Rowe, seconded by Whitney Ryan and unanimously approved.

**VISITORS:**

* **Michelle Gorra:** Attended this evening’s meetingto ask the Commission to consider sponsoring a “Pre-School Program”. Michelle reported on the After School Program for K through 5 students noting that it now has 16 full time students enrolled and each year the program has finished financially “positive”. Ken Schultz, Director of the program, has surveyed parents and at present, 13 families are interested in having a Pre-School Program starting at 7:30a.m. Emily Judd, WPS Principal, is supportive of adding the program. If there is not a problem with custodial duties early in the morning, Michelle would like to move forward with Parks and Rec’s support. Following discussion, the Commission thanked Michelle for a job well done and assured her of its support.
* **Michael Gorra:** Attended this evening’s meeting to thank the Commission for once again sponsoring the Sunday evening Open Skate at the Gunnery rink. The Town provides insurance and Gunnery donates the ice time. Attendance ranges from 25-90 participants per week. Fees and donations assist with equipment purchases for skaters in Shepaug Youth Hockey, as well as registration fees, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Casino Trip:** Jeff Hammond reported that only 13 people have signed up for the trip on Sunday, March 17, 2019 to the Springfield, MA casino. 30 people are needed to break even with the costs associated. As interest in this type of trip is declining, Jeff will not be scheduling any casino trips in the future.
* **River Walk Pavilion:** Jeff Hammond reported that The Pavilion bathrooms will be opened on or about April 15th. The Commission has looked into purchasing a new utility vehicle for grounds keeping at River Walk Park. **Motion:** To approve an amount not to exceed $9000 for the purchase of a utility vehicle. By Tim Cook, seconded by Sheila Anson. Discussion: The old vehicle will most likely be sold after its value is determined. The motion passed unanimously.
* **Activities/Events:** Due to the weather, Winterfest was again cancelled this year. Whitney Ryan has spoken with Sportsmen’s of Litchfield who was going to supply snow shoes and they may be interested in perhaps giving a SUP yoga course at the Town Beach. Whitney will speak with Steep Rock regarding co-sponsoring a Moonlight Hike to the Pinnacle in Macricostis Preserve in May.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Coordinator’s Report:** Jeff Hammond reported the following:
	+ Budget 2019-2020: To help ease the burden on the General Fund, in the wake of our budget meeting it was decided to purchase the new utility vehicle for the River Walk Pavilion and Walking Path through Parks & Rec funds. I have taken the initial steps to order through Pittsfield Tractor and Lawn.
	+ Casino Trip: Last call for the casino trip… This year we are headed to the new MGM Springfield! The date will be Sunday, March 17th (St. Patrick’s Day) The bus will leave the plaza at 2:30pm and return at approx. 11pm. The cost is $35. As has been the trend in recent years, we still have plenty of space on the bus. Please help spread the word.
	+ Spring Swim Lessons: The young woman who I interviewed for the position was, at the time positive about it and looking forward to it. Unfortunately, I never heard back from her. I had another long shot that might have been interested as well. He was supposed to meet with me this week but never came. I will continue to pursue this until we run out of time.
	+ Summer Rec Outlook: Facility use forms have been submitted for LEGO camp and the summer rec program. I have been speaking with Jeff from the Shakespearience group working out the details for the camp and performance in early August. I am waiting to confirm plans for SUP camp at the beach. While we may not be offering any full day options, it’s looking like there will be some activity from the last week in June through the second week in August.
	+ 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.

**Activities/Events:** Commissioners discussed several ideas for upcoming programs including offering a “Coding Camp” and a “Girl’s on the Run” event. It is hoped to schedule a concert in June.

**Chairman’s Report:** C.J. Kersten reported the following:

* **Prayers and support** for the Kraft family. Lt. Matthew Kraft has been reported missing in the Sierra Nevada mountain range as he has not returned from a solo hike by his estimated return date.
* **Sympathy** to the Payne family on the passing of John H. Payne III. John was very active in many aspects of Town. Contributions in his honor may be made to the Shepaug Youth Hockey Program.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:10p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk