**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**July 8, 2019**

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

**Present:** Co-Chairman SheilaAnson, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Alice Demeo. Coordinator Jeff Hammond; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Co-chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 5:39p.m. noting there was not a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:** As there was not a quorum present, the minutes of the June 10, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission could not be approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Summer Rec Programs:** Jeff Hammond reported that the number of campers enrolled is higher than last year, despite a slow start to registrations. Director of the program, Brian McCauley, has reported that there have been no complaints and all is running smoothly. There are no afternoon camps being offered due to lack of registrations. The ASAP/Pilobolus camp has only 12 signed up and the Shakesperience camp has none. Decisions have not yet been made as to whether or not they will be cancelled.
* **4th of July Activities:** The annual Major Stephen Reich Freedom Run went very well with 155 crossing the finish line! As it was difficult to hear Ray Reich present the awards, it was suggested that the portable speaker be used next year. The picnic at River Walk Park was enjoyed by those who attended. The Band was great! The heat and time of the picnic may have been responsible for the low attendance and next year the time may be changed to 4:00-7:00p.m. Some attendees were “disappointed” that there were no food offerings. Jeff Hammond and commissioners will discuss next year’s plans in the months ahead and discuss the possibility of a food truck. A large thank you to EMT Steve Wright who voluntarily attends the race each year and who also attended the picnic! Thank you, also, to John Gueniat, for “mc-ing” the raffle that was enjoyed by all.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **September Concert:** The Billy Joel Concert is set for September 7, 2019 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Town Hall.
* **Beach Facility Repairs:** Caretaker Chris Papsin has requested that the handicapped bathroom have paint touched up and the soap dispensers replaced in all bathrooms. Jeff Hammond will request groundskeeper Jesse Travers take care of that request.
* **Coordinator’s Report:** Jeff Hammond submitted the following report:
  + **River Walk Park:** After receiving the equipment shed and seeing a potential issue with quality, working with Jesse and Larry, we are looking into alternatives as well as discussing ways to enhance the stability. If anyone has been down to the Pavilion since last Wednesday, you might have noticed our new stage in the field. A huge thank you to Larry and Jesse for putting it together. It is very sturdy and looks a lot nicer than the old equipment trailer. It still has some fine tuning to be done but will be at our disposal when we need it. When not in use, it will be stored above the Highway Department.
    - **Beach Maintenance:** I have just been informed that some beach facilities, namely the bathrooms, will need some attention in the near future. There is some peeling paint in the handicap bathroom and both soap dispensers in the men’s and women’s rooms are in bad shape and will likely need to be replaced. Other than that, I am told that everything else is running smoothly at the beach and boat ramp.
    - **Concerts:** The next concert will be River of Dreams, A Billy Joel Tribute. They will be coming back on Saturday, September 7th for a 6pm show. Nothing has been booked yet but I am still considering a food truck option to help enhance the show.
    - **July 4th:** It was another hot one this year. The race went well as usual. We had 155 registered participants. The concert unfortunately, was not well attended again this year. Besides the fact that it has been hot the past two years, I think the main problem is the timing of the event. There has been some talk about either cancelling the event or changing the time. Based on the feedback from folks that went and folks that thought about going. I would be willing to try one more year if we shift the event time to 4-7 or 5-8. All that said, the band, Raging Gracefully, was quite good. While we didn’t have a great turnout, those that were there were enthusiastic. The band was happy with the event and our stage and would be happy to return if we wanted.
    - **Summer Rec:** Once again, I worried too early. I should know why now that folks wait until the last minute. Week 1 of camp is behind us and everything is running pretty smoothly. Camp directors and counselors certainly got thrown right into it this year as we had an impressive, 60 campers compared to 32, last year. The remaining weeks all have similar numbers. While our core camp is performing well, the other camps, are still struggling with low numbers. At this time, we have about 12 signed up for the ASAP/Pilobolus camp extension and still 0 for the acting camp. No decisions have been made yet as to whether anything will be cancelled.
    - **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.
* **Suggestions**: A patron of the Town Beach suggested to the Commissioners that a Recycle Bin be placed at the beach and an outdoor bin for sand and water toy storage.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:28p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk