

January 7, 2013

Present:

Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Joe Fredlund, Tim Cook, Laura Martin, Whitney Ryan; Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked the Commission to keep Sandy Hook Elementary School and the whole Newtown community in their thoughts.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the December 10, 2012 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

By Tim Cook, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Beach and Boat Launch:

No report. Lisa Easter will check with Ray Reich regarding the flag for the beach house.

* River Walk Park:

Joe Fredlund reported that the closing of the Pavilion is completed – all went well. Liz Gugel, Pavilion Caretaker, will be invited to the next meeting to review the season, suggestions, ideas, etc. Wes Gladding, Groundskeeper, has prepared the floors of the bathrooms and kitchen for painting in the spring. Lisa Easter will look into having a light installed by the grill and a motion sensor light by the back door of the Pavilion. Tim Cook gave a presentation on proposed field improvements – showing a map and plan of the playing field areas. The project, if done in its entirety is estimated to cost approximately \$400,000. Gary Fitzherbert has offered to spearhead a fundraising campaign for these needed funds. There would be no cost to the Town. Following discussion, it was decided to invite Gary to the February meeting to present his ideas. Following that there will be a meeting scheduled with the Board of Selectmen and Buildings and Property Commission.

Motion:

To approved payment of up to \$300 to T. Michael Alex, Surveyor, for the creation of plans, contingent on receipt of a bill.

By Tim Cook, seconded by Sheila Anson and unanimously approved.

* Holiday in the Depot:

Despite the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and after a meeting in the afternoon with the Selectmen and the Washington Business Association, Holiday in the Depot went on as scheduled on a more somber note. The Christmas music being played throughout the Depot was stopped immediately after hearing of the tragedy. Although some of the segments were toned down, people who attended enjoyed it and many have said they were glad to have the event to

come to – to just be with others on such a sad night. First Selectman Mark Lyon spoke of the tragedy in his opening remarks prior to the lighting of the tree, asking everyone to remember the lives lost and those left behind. Rev. Paul Corner from the Salem Church led the Town in prayer. Lisa placed a collection bucket in the Town Hall – \$163 was collected. The Commissioners decided to send it to Newtown for a new playground they plan to build. Santa has offered to come again next year. There was talk of the Christmas Tree at Town Hall and it was decided to speak with Bill Polluck of Arbor Services about taking the lights off, trimming the tree and replacing the lights in plenty of time for next year. Lisa Easter discussed the need to organize the Parks and Rec storage area.

Motion:

To approve up to \$600 for the building of shelves for storage.

By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Sheila Anson and unanimously approved.

* Diving Clinic:

Mariah Hofman, who gave her Senior Project presentation at last month's meeting, has contacted Lisa and reported that all is going well. She will be invited to the March meeting to give a final report.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported:

* Holiday in the Depot:

See above. In addition to Santa, the WVFD Auxiliary helped write and mail letters to Santa and sold their annual ornament – this year featuring Holiday in the Depot. The Gunn Jr. Library had a craft for the children to make while the children waited in line for Santa. Children from Washington Montessori School sang Silent Night and a song for Hanukkah on the front steps. The Gunnery Troubadours walked around the Depot caroling. Utopia Percherons gave wagon rides around the Depot. The Main Hall looked great with the extra help from Keith, Cameron and Sydney Goetner, in addition to John Gueniat as usual.

* Summer Rec: Brian McCauley would like to come back again as Camp Director. He'd like to hire a "Naturalist" to add a new dimension to the camp. He would like to offer the position to Alex Theisen (worked for us last year). He is not sure if Alex will have an internship this summer. Lisa has emailed Addie about her return as the PreK/K director. We may need to raise prices for camp to cover the increased cost of security for the building.

* Karate:

Roberta and Tom O'Neil will not be teaching Karate anymore for USA Martial Arts after this session. The O'Neil's will be missed as they have been teaching for us for about 10 years. Karate will still be offered but with new teachers.

* March Softball Camp:

Jenn Badger would like to have a 3-4 day clinic after school in March for Girls Softball. Details to be worked out asap.

* How Cool is That?! Science Camp:

Velya Jancz-Urban would like to offer a camp over April school break. Her camp is popular in the

summer. She would break it up into two age categories.

NEW BUSINESS:

* FOI Training:

Being offered on Monday, January 14th at 7:00 at the Town Hall. Some commissioners will be able to attend.

* Region #12 School Use Update:

The Region will have a security guard at the school Monday through Friday from 2:30p.m. to 10:30p.m. If Parks and Rec should hold a large event at the school, additional security can be hired at a cost of \$22/hour. Access to the school by authorized personnel will now be by key swipes. There was a brief discussion as to the need to hire a lifeguard for morning swim.

* 2013-2014 Budget:

The Commissioners met prior to this meeting to begin discussions for the proposed 2013-2014 budget. Motion: To approve the estimate/proposal from Everything Botanical for work and maintenance at River Walk Park for \$4,221.03. By Tim Cook, seconded by Laura Eanes and unanimously approved. Tim Cook will contact Tom Knecht regarding repairing the floor of the Pavilion and request an estimate.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

C.J. Kersten reported:

* Thank you to Bill Polluck & Arbor Services for their quick response to string the lights on the Town Hall Christmas Tree for Holiday in the Depot.

* Thank you to all who made the evening a success.

* Keep feeling better Joe Fredlund!!

* Happy 100th Birthday to Agnes Foulois!

* Election of Officers:

Motion:

To elect C.J. Kersten as Chairman, Sheila Anson as Vice Chairman and Laura Martin as Treasurer for the coming year.

By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Green, Clerk