

February 14, 2011

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

Present:

Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners C.J. Kersten, Joe Fredlund, Ray Reich, Joan Gauthey, Holly Haas, Tim Cook; Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order:

Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Motion:

To add subsequent business not already on the agenda.

By Sheila Anson, seconded by Holly Haas.

Discussion: "Fireworks" was added for discussion under Old Business after the agenda had been filed and posted.

The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Beach & Boat Launch:**

Sheila Anson has spoken with Selectmen Nick Solley who will be meeting with the Beach Caretakers re: spring clean-up, duties for the upcoming season, etc. Nick will be the contact with and for them. The mailbox for the beach house will be replaced after snow and plowing season. There was discussion as to whether or not there should be a "ceremonial opening" Memorial Day Weekend. One was not held last year as final touches, such as landscaping, were not quite completed by opening day.

*** River Walk:**

Groundskeeper Gary Alex will be starting in approximately three weeks. Bob Alex has notified Sheila that he will be returning from Florida, via "Falconer Freight", with a walking greens mower, valued at \$5,000, which has been donated to Washington Parks and Recreation for River Walk, playing fields, etc. by Tom Alex. Sincere appreciation was expressed.

*** Bowling Alley:**

Tim Cook has contacted John Quist who has obtained the wood needed to make the necessary repairs and will be voluntarily making the repairs by the end of February, early March – as soon as his schedule permits. A tentative Bowling Challenge - Washington Town Hall/Parks and Recreation Commissioners vs. Roxbury - is scheduled for March 11th. Details to follow.

*** Five Year Plan:**

Joe Fredlund, who along with Tim Cook, met with Mark Showalter to discuss needed repairs, future plans, etc. at the Town's park facilities, will be submitting a list of these projects to the Town's Building and Property Committee for their next meeting.

*** Budget:**

The Board of Selectmen, at the request of the Board of Finance, has requested all departments to submit their budget requests for the 2011-2012 fiscal year with a 0% increase to a 10% decrease. Lisa Easter has been working on the Parks and Rec 's budget numbers to be more in line with this request. There was discussion of items that cannot be changed – boiler contracts, increase in electric costs at the Beach House, DEP mandates for boat launch hours, coverage, etc.; separating out of Beach and Boat Launch as these were not always part of the Parks and Recreation budget; placing maintenance costs that may be necessary at the Pavilion into the Capital budget. Motion: To approve the draft budget to be

submitted to the Board of Selectmen, pending the revision of decreases, discussed this evening. By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

*** Fireworks:**

Ray Reich distributed a handout regarding prior costs and decisions needing to be made for the 4th of July 2011 Celebration. There was discussion on several major points.

Motion:

To hold the fireworks on July 4, 2011 (a Monday) with no rain date – July 4, 2012 would be the next scheduled date. To contract with Atlas Fireworks Co of Joffrey, New Hampshire for the 2011 show. To attempt a negotiation of Police costs not to exceed \$7,000. To have only t-shirts and to increase the price to \$15 for adults and \$10 for children's.

By Ray Reich, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported:

*** Bus Trips:**

NY Yankees vs. Tampa Bay Rays, Sunday, August 14, 2011. Game time to be announced. Cost-\$50 per person includes game ticket, bus transportation and drivers tip.

*** Summer Youth Work Program:**

Denise Arturi has approached Lisa about a program that has begun in Woodbury that is funded with donations and/or grant money. Woodbury's program is working closely with its Conservation Commission to help the students find summer employment and work on the park systems. Denise felt there may be an opportunity for Washington youth and could possibly help with the Judea Garden project. She will investigate further and get back to Lisa.

*** Summer Programs/Camps:**

The following have been scheduled:

Berkshire Field Hockey Camp	July 25-29
Dimensions Basketball Camp	July 11-15
Lego Camp	August 8-12
Multi Sport Camp	August 15-19
Softball Camp	August 8-11
Spartan Hoop School	August 1-5
Summer Rec Camp	June 27 – July 22
WVFD Fireman's Carnival	June 23, 24, 25
Swanson/Horrigan Tournament	July 8, 9, 10

NEW BUSINESS: none.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Sheila Anson reported:

*** The Commission's Sympathy is extended to the families of Jean Potter, Randy Johnson and Dan Went.**

*** Happy Birthday, Lisa Easter! - Groundhog Day!**

* Arrival of new baby Congratulations to Michael & Christine Kersten on the birth of Melina Leighton, and to becoming Washington homeowners; and to Ian and Julie Lynes (Alex) on the birth of Mark Christopher!

* Thank you Town of Washington Highway Department for a job well done this VERY snowy winter and to neighbors helping neighbors!!

* Farewell and THANK YOU to Commissioner Joan Gauthey who has asked not to be reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission for another three-year term. Joan has served faithfully, sharing her knowledge, energy and spirit for eighteen years! Tim Cook spoke for the entire Commission when he expressed gratitude and, "it's been a pleasure to serve with Joan!" Joan has offered to continue in an "advisory" capacity. Her years of service will be honored by the Commission at it's meeting in March.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk