

February 16, 2012

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Sheila Anson, Laura Eanes Martin, Joe Fredlund, Ray Reich, Darren Dutcher; Coordinator Lisa Easter, Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order: Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 31, 2012 Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation River Walk Groundskeeper Subcommittee.

By Joe Fredlund, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Beach & Boat Launch:**

Ray Reich reported that all seems to be going well with the new Beach House tenants/caretakers. There was general discussion of the upcoming beach season and possible needs. Motion: To spend up to \$600 for a “Beach Rules” sign. By Sheila Anson, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved. A personnel subcommittee made up of Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Laura Martin (for Whitney Ryan if necessary) will meet with Hank Vallely, Boat Launch Director, re: the upcoming season, hours, etc. and Jeff Cox, beach director.

*** River Walk Park:**

Joe Fredlund reported that the subcommittee – made up of himself, C.J. Kersten and Tim Cook – met with Gary Alex, Groundskeeper, to discuss the duties of the job that currently includes attendant for the Pavilion. It was decided to split the job into two separate jobs - each with their own duties. The Pavilion attendant would take care of anything dealing with the Pavilion – cleaning of bathrooms, kitchen, meeting with renters, etc. and would be from approximately the first week in April until mid-November. The Groundskeeper would be in charge of fieldwork and the walking path from March until November.

*** 2012-2013 Budget:**

Lisa Easter presented a “draft” budget as a result of the budget meeting held last month. The Commissioners reviewed, made suggestions and recommendations in regard to salary amounts, hours, field fertilization, etc. Lisa will re-work numbers and send to the

Commissioners for another review prior to meeting with the Board of Selectmen for budget planning.

*** Shepaug Soccer Club:**

Darren Dutcher explained that the Shepaug Soccer Club has requested \$1500 from each of the three Towns in the region to help with costs associated with maintenance of the fields, referee costs, etc. He feels the request is justified and the monies would be well spent. The Commissioners felt that in light of the fact that \$1500 is given to Little League, the request from soccer should be honored. The \$1500 will be placed in the budget presented to the Selectmen for next fiscal year.

*** Cheerleading/Fitness class:**

Lisa Holman is interested in holding a class for grades 3-5 that would combine fitness and “fun” cheerleading. Commissioners voiced some concern with description of tumbling, pyramids, acrobatics and possible liabilities. Lisa Easter will invite Lisa Holman to the March meeting.

Visitors: None.

COORDINATOR’S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

*** Bus Trips:**

Sunday, May 27th-Red Sox vs. Tamp Bay at Fenway - \$95 per person. Roxbury Recreation – Sunday, June 23 - Mets vs. Yankees, Washington welcome - \$80 per person.

*** Safe Boating Class:**

Trooper Steve Sordi may offer two courses in March & April. Dates to be announced. \$20 cost.

*** Swim:**

Mo VanMoffaert thought the idea of an “open swim day” in the winter months was a good idea – will work on this for next winter. Spring lessons will be announced in mid-March and notices will be sent to all schools for distribution. A “Masters Swim Session” has been suggested for the fall for adults to work on their swimming technique. John Moisan will speak with Todd Dyer to inquire if he would be willing to run such a program.

*** Washington Montessori Kid Expo:**

Saturday, February 25th. Lisa will attend for Washington Parks and Rec – good opportunity to get out info, good public relations, etc. Motion: To authorize \$50 for Lisa to participate in the Kid Expo. By Ray Reich, seconded by Darren Dutcher and unanimously approved.

*** Survey/Summer Rec Camps:**

Lisa has receive only 12 responses but information received indicates that most would like to see the summer rec program extended by adding other programs in the afternoons. Suggestions made were Lego and Multi-Sport camps, Arts & Crafts, swim lessons. Lisa has tentatively scheduled a Multi-Sport camp for the week of July 16-20 from 1-4:00p.m. with a cost of \$109 per child. Lisa has emailed Joanne Kelly to see if she would be interested in doing tennis lessons in the afternoon.

*** Softball Camp:**

Laura Martin reported a Gunnery faculty member might be interested in doing a softball camp. She will check further and specific dates and times will be announced.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Shepaug Cal Ripkin Baseball/Softball:**

A request has been submitted asking each member Town to contribute a set amount – Washington’s expense request is \$1,500 which will help offset the costs incurred by insurance, registration, umpires, website fees, league fees, equipment, coach and player clinics and tournament fees. Washington has been contributing this amount for several years (Little League). Motion: To approve the request of \$1500.00 for Shepaug Cal Ripkin Baseball/Softball. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved.

*** WPS Welcoming Walkthrough:**

Washington Primary School has invited members from the community and various organizations to a walkthrough at the school to look at elements of the school that let parents and community members know they are welcome partners in the school. Based on observations, a commendation/recommendation form will be completed. Ray Reich volunteered to represent the Parks and Recreation Commission.

*** Pepsi Gives Back:**

Pepsi has a program called Pepsi Supports Surrounding Towns that is looking for 16 towns and organizations in New England that need volunteers for a particular project. Sheila Anson volunteered to look into this further.

*** Personnel Meetings:**

Executive Committee members – C.J. Kersten, Sheila Anson and Darren Dutcher – will meet with Lisa Easter, Coordinator, to review her job description, performance, etc.

*** Website:**

Whitney Ryan and Laura Eanes have offered to work on the Parks and Recreation section of the Town’s website to contain pertinent, informative and interesting information.

*** Village Improvement Society**

has asked if there is a particular project or need that they could assist with supporting. There was discussion of looking into a new stove for the kitchen at the Pavilion and/or a

storage cabinet.

*** Financial Report:**

The monthly report of income and expenses was distributed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

C.J. Kersten reported the following:

*** Condolences and sympathy is extended to the Anson family on the death of their son and brother, Jim. Donations in his memory may be made to Washington Little League.**

*** Quick recovery wishes to Whitney Ryan who will be undergoing surgery on her shoulder.**

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene, Clerk**