

March 12, 2012

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

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

By Sheila Anson, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

Guest:

*** Michael Gorra attended this evening's meeting to report and or discuss:**

*** 1) Shepaug Youth Hockey/Family Skate:**

Very successful season. Family Skate had nearly 75-80 participants some weeks! The weekly charge of \$5 per person is a donation to the Bunker Burr Fund (as is the \$75-\$100 raised at the WPS PTO snack bar each week), which helps to offset the costs associated with the youth hockey program, which had 150 participants this season. \$3,000 +/- was donated to the Fund. The program is very grateful to the Parks and Recreation's sponsorship.

*** 2) Shepaug Friends of Music:**

Requesting to have a stand at the 4th of July picnic/fireworks celebration to have information about the program available so that more people are aware of what they do, the scholarships presented, fundraising, etc. There was also discussion of having a concert this year at the Pavilion and various ideas for larger attendance were discussed. On behalf of the Friends of Music, Michael also thanked the Commission for their financial support. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of Michael's request to have a booth after he left. Presently only "service groups"-Lions, Rotary and the Fire Department – have been allowed – no vendors, etc. Concern about "opening up" and having more organizations, businesses, etc. requesting to have a presence at the fireworks. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Commissioners to allow the Shepaug Friends of Music to have a booth this year "on a trial basis" as they serve the youth of Region #12. They would need to request permission again for following years. If there are requests received from other organizations, they will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Ray will notify Michael of this decision.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Beach & Boat Launch:**

Ray Reich reported that the new caretaker/tenants at the Town Beach have begun the spring cleanup. Ray will speak with Jeff Cox, Beach Director regarding the need for sand at the beach. The Highway Department will be requested to pick up debris and to sweep excess sand at the boat launch. Lisa Easter and Ray met with Hank Vallely to discuss the boat launch coverage – hours he will be working, who will be “in charge” etc. It was decided to have the personnel subcommittee (Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Laura Martin for Whitney Ryan) and Lisa meet March 21st at 4:30p.m. with Hank and Jeff Cox. Ray also reported on the “Beach Rules” sign that had been approved at the last meeting. Staples will make a vinyl sign – weatherproof, heavy duty, etc. that can be hung on the fence for approximately \$50. It was the consensus of the Commission to order this sign.

*** River Walk Park:**

There was a brief discussion of the attendant for the Pavilion.

Motion:

To recommend to the Board of Selectmen to add the job responsibilities of the Attendant at the River Walk Pavilion as additional duties to the job of a Town employee beginning the first week in April. This will be reviewed by June 30th.

By Sheila Anson, seconded by Laura Martin and unanimously approved.

*** 2012-2013 Budget:**

The Commissioners presented their proposed budget for next fiscal year to the Selectmen. They will follow up prior to the Town’s Budget Hearing to see what has been accepted and/or rejected.

*** Shepaug Soccer Club:**

Request for support was included in the budget request.

*** Web site:**

Laura Martin has offered to work with Steve Wadelton to keep the Parks and Rec “page” up-to-date.

*** Fitness Class:**

No report – Lisa Holman did not get back with more information, as it is most likely too late in the school year.

*** Kid Expo:**

Lisa Easter had a “booth” at the Expo at the Washington Montessori School. She had 12 registrations for swim lessons. Otherwise may not be worth doing again.

*** WPS Welcoming Walkthrough:**

Ray Reich attended along with Gary Fitzherbert. The particular group he was assigned to reviewed and discussed such things as communications-newsletters, report cards, etc.

*** Pepsi Gives Back Campaign:**

Sheila Anson offered to look into this for next year.

*** Personnel Meetings:**

C.J. Kersten and Sheila Anson met with Lisa Easter and reviewed her hours – 12 in the office per week; 6 “flex” per week. It was suggested that she keep a record of her out of office time (there may be some weeks that require her putting in more than 18 hours and some needing less) in the event it need to be adjusted. An assistant to Lisa is budgeted for and it was suggested she use this person when needed. All Parks and Rec staff should remember to notify the Chairman of the Commission as well as the Selectmen’s Office when vacation time is being taken.

COORDINATOR’S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

*** Bus Trips:**

20 tickets have been sold for the Sunday May 27th Red Sox vs. Tampa Bay Rays game at Fenway.

*** Safe Boating Class:**

has not yet been scheduled.

*** Swim:**

Todd Dyer will be working out details for a “Masters Swim Session”, Spring Swim lessons registrations have been sent out.

*** WMS Kid Expo:**

See above.

*** Survey/Summer Rec Camps:**

18 responses have been received. The ad for Camp Director has been placed in the paper and 3 responses have been received. Interviews will begin soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Flag Pole at Beach:**

Joe Mustich has made a request for this – he will be invited to the April 9th meeting.

*** Field Hockey Clinic:**

A Washington student attending Western Connecticut State University has requested permission to do a four-day clinic after school. Jaye Stuart will oversee. The Commission approved the request.

*** Softball Camp:**

Jennifer Badger from The Gunnery has offered to do this camp from 3:00-6:00p.m. in one of the ACE Baseball Camp weeks. Darren Dutcher and Joe Fredlund offered to assist her in getting it going.

*** 4th of July:**

Ray Reich reported that he received two proposals from fireworks companies – Atlas came in with the same numbers as last year.

Motion:

To approve the use of Atlas Pyro Vision for the 2012 fireworks show for a cost of \$24,000. A \$5,000 deposit will be sent this week.

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

Cost will remain at \$20 per car; 1300 passes will be printed; there is no rain date.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

C.J. Kersten reported the following:

*** Congratulations to Matt Perachi on his being named Athletic Director of the Year.**

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50, as there was no further business for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: April 9, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk