

April 12, 2004

Present: Chairman Sheila Anson, Ray Reich, Joe Fredlund, Lisa Easter, Joan Gauthey, Holly Haas, Tim Cook, Lou Magnoli. (Mary Anne Greene, secretary.)

Call to Order: Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m. noting there was a quorum "even if C.J. is in Florida!"

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 8, 2004 meeting. By Joan Gauthey, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

I. Visitors: Donna Wright - Donna came to this evening's meeting to request the Parks and Recreation Commission to sponsor PTO After School Workshops. A group of parents is willing to conduct various workshops each month for the children at the Washington Primary School. The programs were to start in January and run through June. The costs involved (minimal) would be to cover supplies - not a fundraiser. The principal is in favor of the programs however when the proposal was submitted to the superintendent's office, they were told that the programs could not happen because of "insurance reasons" - they would need to find an organization to sponsor them that would also provide the insurance coverage. Discussion followed as to why it would not be covered as it is a PTO event. As it is now so late in the year, they are now planning for the next school year. It was recommended that Donna go back to the Business Manager to discuss further and to again explain to him that this is a WPS PTO event and should therefore be covered by the Region's insurance. Donna explained that this was "OK" except for one workshop that was to be given by Michael Allan James - to construct a model of Washington for the 225th Anniversary celebration. This should be done this year. **Motion:** The Parks and Recreation Commission will sponsor one workshop this year (by Michael Allan James); if the Business Manager will not approve the insurance coverage and the percentage normally given back to the Commission will be waived. By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Budget: Lisa Easter explained that she, Ray Reich and Sheila Anson met with First Selectman Dick Sears to discuss the number of counselors requested in the Parks and Rec budget proposal for Summer Recreation. Dick told the commissioners that the Selectmen had trimmed the budget to cover 9 counselors (plus the 3 head counselors) not the 12 that were requested. Lisa explained further ideas she had to save money - "field trips" to the Library and Museum that would save bus fare and admission fees. After much discussion, it was decided that Lisa will write to all of the counselors from last year, explain the need to know if they wish to return, that there have been budget cuts and there will possibly be a need for interviews. "Cutting" the number of those wishing to return will most likely be determined by seniority or by performance (if they did not receive a good evaluation at the end of last year's program). Lisa and Sheila have discussed this with Courtney Dohman (last year's Director).

b. Beach & Boat Launch: Ray Reich reported there is nothing new to report at this meeting. There was a sizable fish kill this spring at the Lake (normal occurrence) and Hank Vallely is doing a fine job cleaning up the beach. Boathouse Rental letters have gone out and fees have started coming in for storage of canoes, shells and kayaks.

c. Riverwalk: Sheila and Joe Fredlund met with Linc Cornell. Linc is hopeful that more donations will be forthcoming for the project and that another fundraising letter should not go out yet. Village Improvement Society may be making a sizable donation. Sheila and other commissioners will be in touch with them to follow up on this. Tim Cook reported that Frank Dolen has been hired to oversee the project and Reese Owens (architect) will be doing up the specs. The project is now in front of the Inland Wetlands Commission - once this step is completed the commission can proceed with Planning and

Zoning requirements, permits, etc. Mike Alex is working very closely with the commission on the IW application. Tim is hopeful the project can go out to bid by the end of May.

d. Little League: Tim Cook reported that practices have started - the official season opens the last weekend in April. Coaches have their packets and will be notifying their players/parents of the upcoming schedules of practices and games.

e. Washington's 225th Anniversary Celebration: Sheila reported there was a meeting today. The chairmen of this event have mentioned the possibility of Parks and Rec organizing games at the parade/picnic celebration on August 28th. It was felt at this meeting, that Parks and Rec will be more than happy to assist on that day and evening but that there is probably enough going on that "games" are not necessary. Sheila, Courtney Dohman and Michelle Gorra have been working on a children's are exhibit to be held in May. The theme is "My Favorite Place in Washington." Lisa has received a letter from the parade chairman, Jim Brinton, asking if Parks and Rec wants to have a float in the parade. Although several ideas for a float were discussed this evening, the general feeling was not to have one but to be involved in other ways. (This may not be "the final decision" however ...butt...) C.J. Kersten was unanimously nominated and approved to be the official "contact person" for the commission.

f. 4th of July Fireworks: Ray Reich reported the fundraising letters have started to go out. He will be making decisions regarding t-shirts, tote bags, golf shirts, etc. and will be comparing prices with Tanners and with Sarah Lyon who may also be doing work for the 225th.

g. Town Garage Property: No report.

h. Bus Trips: Lisa reported that a trip to Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular on November 11, 2004 has been scheduled. Total cost will be approximately \$55 per person. A trip to the Yankees vs. Anaheim game on August 21, 2004 is in the works.

i. Monthly Financial Report: Mary Anne Greene distributed - there were no questions. Joe Fredlund requested a final accounting on the basketball accounts. May be using some monies for the purchase of new baskets.

j. ASAP: Sheila reported that JoAnne Torti has requested a meeting with several of the commissioners to discuss possibly extending the time that ASAP would be sponsored by Parks and Rec. This would give her more time to get the non-profit status, insurance, etc. that is needed. Sheila, Ray, and Lisa will meet with her tomorrow.

III. COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Lisa reported that the April **After School Arts and Crafts program** has 11 children enrolled. The next class will be scheduled for May 6th. Thursday of this week is the final day for sign-up for **spring swim**. John Norris will be teaching **spring tennis** this year (at the suggestion of Kenyon Clark). Lisa has been contacted by Doug Wilke regarding teaching a **karate** class at the Washington Primary School As we have never had a program with Mr. Wilke, it was suggested that other towns that have used him be contacted - if they have been pleased than OK to go ahead. Although there had been discussion about hiring someone to begin work on the fields and walking path (prior to Mr. Osborne's being able to start), this has not occurred. Gunnery students will be helping next week as part of their community service day. Tennis nets at WPS are not yet up. Lisa will follow up on this.

IV. NEW BUSINESS: None.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila congratulated UCONN Men and Women for their victories - NCAA champs!! Linea Quist is recovering very well! Sheila also asked the minutes to reflect best wishes and deep appreciation to Andrew Newlin (youth minister at the Salem Church) who will be leaving in May to hike the Appalachian Trail. The Commission is grateful to him for his work in the

community - not only in his church but in the schools, and in Town. Happy Belated Birthday to Pappa Beak Lou Magnoli!

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 10, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Secretary
