

April 9, 2013

Present:

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

Call to Order:

Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. noting there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the March 11, 2013 Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

* Beach/Boat Launch:

Ray Reich reported that the Boat Launch would open April 20th for the season. Hank Vallely will be returning as Director. Chris and Leah Papsin – Beach caretakers, are also preparing for the upcoming season with “spring clean up”, mulching, planting etc. Two large trees in the lawn area need pruning. Ray has spoken with Buildings and Property Commission member Nick Solley who offered to contact Lord Tree Services and Arbor Tree Services for estimates.

* River Walk Park:

Lisa Easter reported that the Pavilion is scheduled to open April 15th. Lisa has contacted Eagle Electric regarding the installation of a motion-detected light by the kitchen door and a light by the grill area. She will coordinate with Groundskeeper Wes Gladding. Scott Anson and Fritz Johnson will paint the dugouts this week. Ray Reich has met with representatives from the Washington Garden Club who would like to donate to the River Walk Park – they were instrumental in the planning and plantings for the walking path and would like to continue their involvement. One suggestion was an informational sketch showing the walking path, the plantings and their identifications. Abbey Johnson-Everything Botanical-has presented a plan for maintenance of the Pavilion area and it was suggested the Garden Club and she meet. They also were interested in contributing to the beach area. The Garden Club will get back to Ray with thoughts and ideas, which will be presented to the Commission for approval. The irrigation system for the ball fields has been inspected and is turned on for the season. Don O’Leary, Facilities Manager for Region #12, sent an email regarding the Ted Alex field. C.J. Kersten will contact him to review who is responsible for the various areas of upkeep and maintenance. The Gunnery has requested the use of the softball field on several Saturdays – Lisa will check various schedules. Lisa will also follow up with Wes Gladding regarding the locks on the Pavilion doors-deadbolt locks will stay – door handles need to be replaced and doors painted.

* Ball Field Improvement Project:

Gary Fitzherbert, who has offered to assist in fundraising efforts, will meet with Tim Cook in the near future.

* Diving Clinic:

Mariah Hofman was not able to attend this evening's meeting. Lisa suggested she email us a report on her Diving Clinic Senior Project.

* Adult Morning Swim:

Lisa will meet with Rocky Tomlinson, who is providing security coverage at the school for Morning Swim, and Sheila Anson to fine-tune the check-in process, etc. Most participants have paid their monthly fee to use the pool, which will cover the cost of having the required security person in attendance every morning. However, there were several swimmers who came in March who have not yet paid. Lisa informed the Commissioners that there is a possibility that a lifeguard may also become a requirement of the Region in the future.

* Fireworks:

Ray Reich asked Lisa Easter to check on the use permit for the Shepaug grounds. 1100 car passes are ordered as well as 100 VIP passes.

* Summer Concert:

Whitney Ryan has been communicating with Jason Spooner and the August 24th concert at the Pavilion is confirmed. The Commissioners discussed naming the event "Washington Community Concert Series" and funds raised will "benefit the children of Washington, Connecticut". Whitney will get a check request to Lisa for Jason's deposit and she will contact Trooper Steve Sordi regarding police coverage. There was also discussion of asking the Fire Department and Auxiliary to sell food and to perhaps involve children from "Sing Out" to perform at intermission. More details will be discussed at next month's meeting.

* Hockey Follow up:

Laura Martin reported for Michael Gorra that this year's hockey program went very well. The Bunker Burr Fund was able to help purchase several goalie uniforms and equipment. The program expressed its deep appreciation for the support of the Washington Parks and Rec Commission by providing insurance coverage and sponsorship.

* Summer Camps:

Lisa Easter, Laura Martin and Whitney Ryan met with Brian McCauley, Summer Rec Director, to discuss this year's program. Several new ideas and initiatives were discussed. Marisabel Artieda will be the Director of the Arts and Crafts program as well as conducting the Art Camp in the afternoons. A Pre-K teacher is still needed for the Summer Rec program July 1 – 26th. Multi-sport, Lego, Science and Art camps have been scheduled.

* Men's Adult Basketball:

Greg Mercier is interested in coordinating and being responsible to get this program started again. The Commissioners were in agreement and more details will be discussed in the future.

* Website:

Lisa has held off contacting myrec.com regarding setting up a website as the Town as a whole may be looking into various other websites – i.e. Virtual Town, etc. that may be able to incorporate all the information Parks and Rec would like to have available.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Lisa Easter reported the following:

- * Spring Swim Lessons: All lessons are full.
- * Master's Swim Program: Also full.
- * Adult Morning Swim: Going well - see above under "Old Business".
- * Summer Rec: See above under "Old Business".

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Community Day is scheduled for June 1st. Commissioners agreed to purchase a full-page ad in the program for \$100.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

C.J. Kersten reported:

- * Congratulations to Keith Lipinsky on his appointment as Athletic Director in New Milford!
- * Congratulations to Mary Anne and Doug Greene on the birth of their first grandchild, Tyler – born to Liz (Greene) and Eric Gibbs!
- * Good luck to Shepaug Baseball and Softball teams!

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene