

September 8, 2008

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

Call to Order: Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m. noting there was a quorum.

Minutes:

* Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 21, 2008 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Holly Haas, seconded by C.J. Kersten and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Beach and Boat Launch:

Ray Reich reported there were no problems this summer season that he was aware of at the beach. Lisa Easter explained that the only difficulty was the week prior to Labor Day Weekend when most of the guards had returned to school. There were two days that there was no lifeguard coverage and the “No Guard on Duty” sign needed to be posted. Full staff was on board for the Holiday Weekend. Michael Branson filled in at the boat launch for Hank Vallely when there were no guards available to do so. As for the construction at the beach – beach house, grounds, etc. this will not happen until next fall. Once an engineer is hired for the project, drawings will be done and the necessary permits applied for from the Town commissions. The launch is working fine and there were only a few days the entire summer that the parking area was full. Sheila and Ray complimented the staff at the beach and boat launch for a great job!

* River Walk Park:

Lisa will be contacting Julie Adams to do work agreed upon at the July meeting-weeding, pruning, clean up around split rail fences, etc. Lunan 's has done a great job on the fields – no weeds! Lisa reported that Gary Parkosewich-Middle School Athletic Director-has contacted Parks and Rec regarding using the field at the River Walk Park for Middle School Soccer due to construction on the track at the High School. Lisa advised him to speak with the Athletic Director at the Gunnery to work out a schedule as they also use the field in the fall. There will be a Fall Baseball league this year that will be using the Joe Martin Field on several days. Larry Cable will be painting dugouts and Tim Cook and John Quist will be repairing the roof on the visitor's dugouts. Someone has reported tire tracks on the newly refinished tennis courts – Lisa has asked Larry to check this out and she asked the commissioners to think about the necessity of installing fencing, large rocks, etc. to prevent this from happening if it is indeed a problem. Lisa will also contact Eagle Electric regarding the installation of a light in the storage area and the company that provides the propane for an extension hose for the grill.

* Little League:

Tim Cook reported that the post-season fall meeting has taken place and the committee will be working on the By-laws. As there were two Babe Ruth teams, there were more costs than usual. It was a successful year for players, tournaments were enjoyed – particularly the wooden bat tournament. There is a Cal Ripkin League in Litchfield and a representative from that league will be coming to talk to our Little League Association. Softball had a “fun season” and Coach Fritz Johnson thinks most girls will be returning next year.

* Pot Luck Movie Nights:

Turnout for these evenings was not as good as hoped but those who went enjoyed. Over the winter the commissioners will think about ideas for next year. The idea was mentioned to think about doing a winter movie night in the Town Hall as well. Lisa also requested that if we do hold Movie Nights next

summer, the movies are chosen early so she can publicize them with advance notice.

COORDINATORS'S REPORT: Lisa reported:

- * Bus Trips: Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular trip is November 11th. \$125 per person with lunch at Hearthstone Brewery or \$95 with no lunch. Plenty of seats left.
- * Karate: Will be starting up again and a new class has been added for 5 and 6 year olds. The Instructors are also working on a Self Defense Seminar – more details to be announced.
- * Fall Swim Lessons: Will start September 23rd for 7 weeks, Family Swim will be held on select Fridays – dates to be announced.
- * River Walk Park: see above.
- * Lisa Vacation: Lisa will be out of the office on October 6, 8 and 15 – returning to work on October 20th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Region #12 letter: Lisa has received a letter from Bruce Storm notifying users/renters of school facilities of the importance of saving energy, possibly limiting the days or evenings they could be used, charging extra to meet costs, etc. This is all very preliminary and any changes would need to go before the Board of Education for any action necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sheila reported:

- * Welcome to Scott Flaton: Washington's new full time Constable.
- * Good-Bye and Thank you to Denise Arturi: Denise will be leaving the Town Hall on September 19th after nearly 13 years of employment – first as Parks and Rec Coordinator and later as Assistant Assessor, and Assistant Town Clerk. She and her husband Peter will be moving to sunny California after the first of the year. We wish them all the best.
- * Town Crew Thank You: The Highway Department's willingness to assist Parks and Rec on many fronts is greatly appreciated!
- * Doug Bixby's Farewell: Sheila, Ray, and Holly did a presentation to Doug at his Farewell Celebration on behalf of the Parks and Rec Commission. It was a great party for a GREAT gentleman!
- * Hip Hip Hooray for Joan Gauthey: Joan was wished well on her upcoming hip surgery. Ray highly recommends the surgeon!
- * Happy Birthday to C.J. Kersten: September 28th!
- * Happy Belated SEVENTY Birthday Wishes: to Ray Reich :)!
- * Remembering John Allen: John was a personal friend as well as a friend to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the entire Town of Washington. He will be truly missed!

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. (**Note: This is a change from the posted October 8, 2008 date.**)

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Clerk