PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 13, 2013
Minutes

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Meghan O'Connor, Angelo Franzese, Bill Pullan, Gary Regan, Lou Valenti, Rachael McGrath, and visitor Larry Craybas.

ABSENT: Laura Ferguson, Patrick Morton and Eileen Earle.

CALL TO ORDER: Meghan O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes for September 25, 2013 were accepted on a motion by Gary Regan, seconded by Lou Valenti, and then approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Larry Craybas, Board of Education Chairman, attended the meeting to inform us of the concerns of the BOE, Council of Business Managers, OSHA, and the ABA. As part of the major school project/renovations being considered, a safety report on the fields is being reviewed regarding the safety of children. One solution to help prevent concussions is to measure the cushion of a field to determine if the field is playable. They also are reviewing the run off space of a field on the distance between the field and the fence. Another concern is whether the fields are assessable to children with disability. He also discussed the proposal to renovate Johnson and Rockwell Schools and how this will impact the fields at the schools.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: Lou Valenti made a motion, seconded by Gary Regan to table the review of the Accounts Payable, Payroll and Income till the next regular scheduled meeting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Request received from BBA for repairs at Mitchell Park necessary to maintain a safe park. This includes the repair of existing stonewalls, grind out stump, install a bel. block border set in concrete, remove asphalt around the snack shed, re-grade, compact and repave. Total cost $7, 895.00
  Lou Valenti made a motion to approve the repairs contingent that the work would be paid by BBA and that the Parks and Rec. Director would first do a walk through before any work is started, second by Gary Regan. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.
- Request received from BYLA to host the WHLA Championship Tournaments in May 2014. They would like to use the upper and lower high school fields as it gives access to restrooms, is ADA accessible and gives the opportunity for concessions.
  Angelo Franzese made a motion to approve the request to allow Lacrosse to have the tournament using the Rockwell and Stadium field, seconded by Gary Regan. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.
- Thank you received from BYSA for Parks and Rec.'s help and support of this year's Columbus Day Weekend Soccer Tournament. Soccer has received many favorable compliments from visiting teams about our fields, the school complex and how well organized the Tournament was. These compliments are the results of many but certainly a result of the hard work Eileen and our staff put into making this tournament a success.

CORRESPONDENCE, continued:

- Request received from the Bethel Education Foundation for a donation to their annual Barnum Ball Fundraiser & Auction to raise money to support and enhance education for all school-age children in Bethel. Parks and Rec. has donated in the past and will continue to do so.

PROGRAMS: Fall Programs will be ending in a couple of weeks. The Intown Basketball draft will take place on Saturday, Nov. 16th with the intown basketball leagues starting on Dec. 7. Registration for the High School Basketball league is going well and will have 8 teams. Winter Registration started on Sat, Nov. 9th with programs starting the 1st week in December.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: none

ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES: The Commission will continue to review the Association Guidelines and email recommendations to the director. Eileen Earle will meet with the league presidents on December 5th to discuss the guidelines, league insurance and answer any questions they might have. Eileen will also have the town lawyer review all documents and finalize everything by the next Commission meeting. The guidelines will go into effect in the New Year for the upcoming spring sports season. The guidelines should improve communication between the leagues and the Parks and Recreation Department.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Gary Regan made a motion which was seconded by Angelo Franzese to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, **December 11, 2013** at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Beote

Janet Beote, Recording Secretary