

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Minutes

PRESENT: Meghan O'Connor, Laura Ferguson, Angelo Franzese, Patrick Morton, Bill Pullan, Gary Regan, Rachael McGrath, Eileen Earle and visitors: Cadette Troop 50711 Allison Hermansen, Kate Galvin, Juliana Cantu, Audrey Garcia, Sanni Cohn, Lisa Cohn, Lynn Galvin, and Megan Garcia.

ABSENT: Lou Valenti

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes for Nov. 13, 2013 were accepted on a motion by Gary Regan, seconded by Bill Pullan, and then approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bethel Cadette Troop 50711 for their Silver Award project presented a proposal for a Bethel Dog Park. Their troop believes that a dog park would be beneficial to the town and that the existing amenities at Meckauer Park make it a prime location. The park would be located in the old playground area, in the south corner of the park behind the existing bathrooms. The girls were well prepared and discussed having a handicapped accessible path, fencing, benches, waste bag dispensers, trash containers, potable water, and posted rules. They even would like to paint a mural on the existing bathroom wall facing the park.

Their troop would work to raise community awareness for the new "Bethel Bark Park" and help raise funds for this project. They also request that the town of Bethel set up a fund to accept donations for the dog park.

Bill Pullan stated that they did an outstanding job and were nice to come forth to set the ground work for a dog park. In conclusion the girls presented a wonderful video to promote the dog park with plans to add to it as the project proceeds.

The commission discussed the need for a dog park, the location proposed, parking, water source availability, cost and the procedures to follow. Gary Regan made a motion to pursue the dog park proposal and present it to the Town Council, Health Department and Insurance provider, seconded by Laura Ferguson. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: The Cash Balance Report and Income Deposit Account show an increase over last year. This reflects the increased number of programs offered by Parks and Rec. and also the income from 80 students participating in the High School Basketball League. The Expenditures Report was reviewed; Mrs. Earle stated that the overtime amount would be corrected as some of the work would be charged to the Public Works account. On a motion by Gary Regan, seconded by Pat Morton the Accounts Payable, Payroll and Income were accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PROGRAMS: Winter programs have started as well as the Intown Basketball League. The Boys 7th and 8th grade teams have been moved to the High School. The Senior and Junior Leagues both have 8 teams with the other levels showing a good number of players. The High School League has close to 80 students registered with 8 teams planned. Last year we had enough players for six teams and will plan for 10 teams next year. The High School league will play on Sundays.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Work on the fields continues; application of sod at Mitchell Park and on the High School pitching mound. Mrs. Earle met with an organic fertilizing expert to maintain the fields with a schedule set up for applications and watering. Mrs. Earle reported that we have lost three machines:

- A 1997 utility vehicle which no longer runs.
- A 2012 Sand Pro. \$5,000 estimate from Toro for a new engine.
- A 2006 X Mark Lawn Mower which had an engine fire while it was being driven back to the garage. \$4,000 estimate to replace the engine. \$14,000 for a new one. She will prepare a special request for a new one to submit to finance.

ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES: Mrs. Earle and Commission members Lou Valenti and Angelo Franzese met with the Presidents of all the sport organizations last week to review the Association Guidelines for use of Bethel's recreational facilities. All the Presidents were very receptive of the Guidelines. Some changes will be made in regards to Maintenance and Supervision requirements to make clear the law requiring a recycling can be placed next to each garbage can. We might decide to go back to a carry in carry out policy. We are also considering giving each organization a copy of the current bylaws of the American with Disabilities Act. The guidelines will continue to be review and then voted on at the next meeting in January.

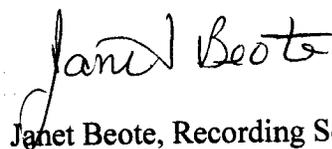
CAPITAL PLAN/BUDGET: The Capital Plan for 2014-2018 was given to the Commission members for review then to vote on at the next meeting. The X-Mark was added to the 2014-2015 Capital Equipment list and the price for a Tractor is now \$50,000. Discussion followed concerning how important Parks and Rec. is to the town, the students and educational complex. It would be very beneficial to have parent advocates to promote Parks and Rec. before submitting the budget to the Board of Finance.

MEETING DATES 2014: On a motion by Pat Morton and seconded by Angelo Franzese the Commission Regular meeting Dates for 2014 were unanimously approved by all members present.

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 8:45 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, **January 22, 2014** at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Beote, Recording Secretary