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SEP 26 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Sept. 24, 2008

the regular meeting of the commission was called to order by chairman, Meghan O'Connor, at 7:30 P.M. In attendance were Steve Poole, Bill Pullan, Gary Regan, Pat Morton, Lou Valenti, Eileen Earle and Rachel McGrath.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted on a motion by Lou Valenti, seconded by Pat Morton, unanimously approved by all members present.

Under Public Comments, five members of the Bethel Baseball Assn; Dan Spinella, Pat Horan, Ray Guercio, Brenden Galvin and M, Pane, attended with items which they asked us to include in the agenda in the next regularly scheduled meeting for discussion and consideration. They were: cutting a baseball diamond on Parloa Field that would encroach on the soccer field by 15 feet (more fields are needed); assign a maintenance worker to weed the backstops; utility field installed on the property behind Kindercare; maintainer to fix the field on Saturday after rain on Friday night; change the field at Mitchell Park to 50/70 (most surrounding towns do this as well as Cal Ripken); extend the backstop to prevent accidents (extension has been ordered); Many of these items require expenditures that cannot be allowed this year under current budget restrictions. Perhaps with cooperation of the BBA, the discussion will be fruitful at the next meeting 10/29.

Accounts payable, payroll and income were studied and accepted on a motion by Steve Poole, seconded by Gary Regan, unanimously approved by all members present.

Several thank yous and one invitation were received by the Department as well as letters from Mark Goodwin concerning the Bethel Middle School Soccer field; and The Youth Commission concerning programs for the 13-18 year olds that are offered through P&R. The soccer field changes would require drain removal as well as fence changes and would be expensive. Perhaps another solution can be found. The baseball extension would be difficult since the pine trees are themselves a barrier. Signage warning people in the area might help. A report will be sent to the Youth Commission.

All programs scheduled are in progress. Two new programs: one for 6-18 month olds and Nature Detectives for older children are in progress.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING 9/24 - Page 2

the following programs are being planned: Intown Basketball Program; Christmas Show; TRavel Basketball Tryouts.

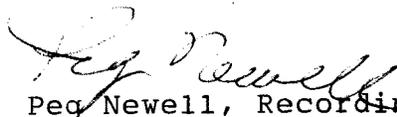
On October 14, Eileen Earle and Rachel McGrath will be attending the National Conference in Baltimore, Md. for 2 1/2 Days. They will learn a lot and bring it back to Bethel and their work for us.

Ms. Earle mentioned that someone had a suggestion concerning disk golf and there is a possibility of offering this at a later date. We have had some allergic young people who had hard times in our building. It is difficult, but a nut-free environment will be set up on Wednesdays and the activity room will be carefully monitored and cleaned.

Gary Regan has investigated and will set up a Buddy Baseball program in Bethel for mentally and physically disadvantaged kids who want to play. There will probably be a team set up by Gary in Dancuty so there will be some interaction there and with the help of volunteers (buddies) the special children will be able to play. Good work Gary! More on this later.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Gary Regan, seconded by Pat Morton, the meeting was adjourned with a reminder of the next meeting on October 29,

Respectfully submitted,



Peg Newell, Recording Secretary









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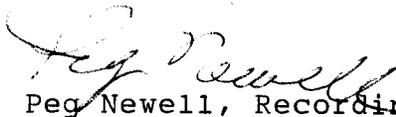
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