

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Minutes

PRESENT: Meghan O'Connor, Angelo Franzese, Patrick Morton, Stephen Poole, William Pullan, Gary Regan, Lou Valenti, Rachael McGrath, Eileen Earle and visitor Ron Lienhardt, President Bethel Baseball Association.

ABSENT: all attended

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

MINUTES: Minutes of the April 27, 2011 regular meeting were accepted on a motion by Patrick Morton, seconded by Angelo Franzese.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ron Lienhardt attended the meeting and read the Bethel Baseball Association Report to the Parks & Rec. Commission. He reported that they had a very successful spring season with a total of 369 total players in all leagues. There will be 6 or 7 Cal Ripkin teams playing travel baseball this summer, which is the largest number in their history. They also had over 60 volunteers to help clean and prep the fields this season with 80 yards of mulch given to BBA. They are also working with someone who will be donating trees and bushes to help enhance the look of Mitchell Park.

Ron thanks the director, Eileen and her staff for all their hard work dealing with the difficult conditions the weather presented this spring. June 5th BBA will clean and prep Mitchell Park for this year's Al Leonard Tournament, which starts June 6th and ends June 24th. With an increase of 9 teams over last year's enrollment, BBA hopes to send the largest check ever to the Jimmy Fund!

Saturday May 21st the fall registration starts and BBA expects to see enrollment to exceed last years. The BBA board is very optimistic about Bethel's Baseball future.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: Income was reviewed and on a motion by Gary Reagan and seconded by Angelo Franzese, was unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

PROGRAMS: All Saturday programs, Ballet & Dance, Karate, Gymnastics, Volleyball and Over 40 Basketball have ended. The Ballet recital was on April 30th and went well.

The following programs are in progress: Body By Bethel, Art Classes, Pre-school classes, Zumba, Tae Kwon Do, Baseball, Softball, Soccer and Lacrosse.

The following programs are being planned: Summer Camps, Sports Camps, Zarkana Trip, Summer Movie Night and the Road Race. Registration for Preschool Camp is going well with one week already fully booked with an enrollment of 35 students. Sports camp registration just started on May 23, with a lot of interest in the new Skyhawks Basketball Camp. Movie night will be on Thursday, July 14th after the new Farmers Market. Road Race plans are moving forward, with Fast Track timing doing the online registration. Road Race shirts will be royal blue this year for the runners, white for the kid's mini cracker and red for volunteers.

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PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS, PARKS ASSESSMENTS: Will be discussed at the next meeting.

DANCE POROGRAMS: The Seven Star School of Performing Arts is interested in developing a dance program for the Parks and Rec. Dept. that would include all forms of dance. This would include Hip Hop for Middle and High School Students with tap, ballet and jazz for younger students. They are also interested in doing a Broadway Baby class for 3-5 year old children. The sessions would run for 12 weeks and be held on Wednesday and Friday nights.

The dance instructor, Crystal Schewe, is interested in expanding her Theatre classes and will not be offering dance on Saturdays. She will be running an intro program at the camps this summer for theatre arts.

SUMMER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: There are 48 teams in the Al Leonard Tournament with 70 games scheduled from June 6 – June 23, on four fields. There will also be 117 home games scheduled from June 26 – July 31 at Mitchell Park. There are some concerns regarding the number of games and time it will take the staff to keep the fields playable. The director is considering the possibility of charging BBA an extra fee.

Also discussed was the BMX Challenger Championship & National races scheduled for July 22, 23 and 24 which brings in over a thousand people to Mitchell Park. The director has received permission to use the Walnut Hill Church parking lot during the event. There are also four-home baseball games schedule on July 22 at Mitchell Park. This was discussed with BBA president, Ron Lienhardt and a decision was made to have Baseball schedule only away games on July 22. On August 6 Baseball will host Regionals. On the July 4th weekend there will be a 9-year old tournament to raise money for the Scotty Fund.

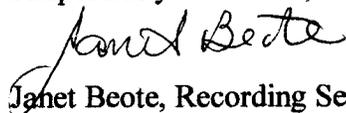
MISC: Relay for Life will be held June 11 & 12 at the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center. Relay will have access to the building. Therefore Parks and Rec. Dept will have a staff member working all night to monitor the building.

Parks and Rec. Dept is researching on updating our website with the possibility of having on line registration. Discussion followed concerning the bathrooms in the Taj with a cost of \$350, 000 and a timeline of having the work completed by football season next year.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by Steve Poole to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next regular meeting will be held on June 22, 2011 at 7:30pm. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Beote, Recording Secretary