

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Minutes

PRESENT: Meghan O'Connor, Patrick Morton, Stephen Poole, William Pullan, Gary Regan, Lou Valenti, Rachael McGrath, and Eileen Earle. Visitors attending from Bethel Baseball were: Jim Lacey President, Randy Vooris V.P. Cal Ripken, Jay Waterman Treasurer, Trip Thunhorst Secretary, John Amendola, Bill Slifkin, and Tom Carraturo.

ABSENT: Angelo Franzese

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the September 28, 2011 regular meeting were accepted on a motion by Bill Pullan, seconded by Gary Regan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Lacey introduced himself as the new President of Bethel Baseball Association and introduced the other members attending the meeting. The Bethel Baseball Association is looking into grants and is putting a grant committee together to work with the Parks and Recreation Dept. to benefit all parties involved. He also stated that they have a tremendous resource of volunteers who are willing to help and work with Parks and Rec.

Moving forward he stated that they read the Parks and Rec. minutes dated Sept. 28th, and are against having the Crowe Baseball field converted into use as a multipurpose field. This field has been serving the youth of Bethel for 60 plus years and Bethel Baseball has plans to continue utilizing this field to bring in more programs. They feel it is a huge asset to retain this baseball field and will help Parks and Rec. to look at other avenues for a multipurpose field. Baseball would like Parks and Rec. to checked into the Kowalski Property and the Bethel Businessmen's League Field as their numbers are way down. Mrs. Earle will contact Rich Zuvich to check the Businessmen's schedule. This field is quite large and might be able to be utilized by other leagues.

Meghan O'Connor, Chairman of the Parks and Rec. Commission stated that the best way to go forward is for Bethel Baseball to lay out their plans and ideas and submit them to the Commission so that we can better work together. The Commission is also interested in knowing what kind of grants Baseball is interested in obtaining. Meghan also requested their schedules to see what the usage is like at Crowe Field.

Bill Slifkin stressed the need to have the Kozlowski Property on our Capital Plan and to submit it to the Board of Finance for approval. Lou Valenti stated that it is good to get input from the Baseball Association.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: Mrs. Earle, informed the Commission members that Parks and Rec. income paid for the water and sewer hookups for the new bathrooms in the Taj garage, which are now open for use. Income was then reviewed and on a motion by Gary Regan and seconded by Pat Morton, was unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

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TOWN CLERK

PROGRAMS: The following programs are in progress: Fall Programs: Zumba, Dance, Preschool, Art and after school programs. Travel Basketball tryouts went well and practices started last week.

The following programs are being planned: The Winter Brochure will be back from the printer this week and distributed to the schools early next week with Registration scheduled for November 12, 2011. Ticket sales for the Christmas Show at Radio City is going well with 25 tickets sold already. Registration deadline for the Intown Basketball League is Friday, October 28th.

BENNETT POND: All approvals are in for the dredging of Bennett Park. Last week Mrs. Earle attended a pre bid meeting and 8 people were interested in submitting a bid. Bids to dredge Bennett Park Pond will be opened tomorrow, October 27, 2011.

CAPITAL PLAN: Tennis Courts: The courts are in such bad shape that we are no longer able to repair the cracks and must have a complete redo which will cost approximately \$150,000. It might be an insurance liability to open the courts next spring in their present condition.

Kowalski Property: The Kowalski Property is one of the top four items that was recommended last January by the Parks and Rec. Commission to be done this fiscal year. The estimate to complete this project is \$721,000.

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- Gary Regan discussed the possibility of checking into obtaining grant money to complete the projects that are on our Capital Plan. Eileen Earle will work on the Capital Improvement Plan for the next meeting and will also check with Phyliss Kansky concerning grants.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Lou Valenti made a motion, which was seconded by Stephen Poole to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next regular meeting will be held on November 16, 2011 at 7:30pm in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Beote, Recording Secretary