

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Minutes

PRESENT: Meghan O'Connor, Patrick Morton, Bill Pullan, Gary Regan, Lou Valenti, Rachael McGrath, Eileen Earle and visitors Jim Lacey, Pres. BBA and Charlie Steck, Bethel Lyons Club.

ABSENT: Laura Ferguson and Angelo Franzese

CALL TO ORDER: Meghan O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes for April 23, 2014 was accepted on a motion by Gary Regan, seconded by Pat Morton then approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Charlie Steck of the Bethel Lyons Club attended the meeting and voiced his concerns regarding the Lyons Club use of the building at Bennett Park. They presently have use of the building on Wed. nights, from April 1- October. As they have donated their time and money to completely refurbish the town building, installed air conditioning and a heating system, they feel that they should be able to hold meetings all year. Mr. Steck requests that the entrance road be plow during the winter as he was under the impression that the Lyons Club had an agreement with the town for use of the park building all year.

The director will research the agreement that was made with the Lyons Club but stated that Bennett Park is a seasonal park and is only open from April 1- October. She will also have the air conditioning and heating units checked. The Commission recognizes the great contribution the Lyons Club has made to the town and stated that a request in writing to the Board of Selectmen would be needed to open the park all year.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: Expenditures Report; Adjustments may be made to some accounts. Cash Balance Report shows a slight increase over this time last May. On a motion by Gary Regan and seconded by Lou Valenti the Accounts Payable, Payroll and Income were accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you from St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, \$50 gift certificate for the Spring Auction.
- Thank you for our support by supplying paint, woodchips and delivering the benches for the Girls Scout Bronze project of refreshing the Johnson School Playground. Troop 50151
- Application received from True Grit Lacrosse, LLC, Christopher Sgritta for a Lacrosse Camp, July 7-10 from 3-7 pm for use of the Lower High School Field. After some discussion application will be approved pending receipt of the Certificate of Liability Insurance and a copy of the coaches' background checks. Fee: \$75 a day per Parks and Rec. Guidelines.
- Application received from Rafel Marin for use of a field. Application will be approved for July 20, 2014, Johnson field. Fee: \$75 a day per Parks and Rec. Guidelines.

PROGRAMS:

- **Completed Programs:** Spring Program classes.
- **Programs in Progress:** Mini Program session offered for May and June.
- **Programs Planned:** Summer registration for playground camps continues and should increase in enrollment by June 1st. Eighteen new summer playground staff has been hired. Also a Concussion Seminar is being offered on June 4th in the General Purpose Room, with another one by the Edge offered in August.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Rainy spring season has been hard for our maintenance staff to keep the fields playable.
- Part time Maintenance staff for the summer has been hired.
- Director will meet with teams that have schedules in June, July & Aug. this week to go over the guidelines.
- The Girl Scouts have been very active in the improvements of Bennett Park and are currently helping out by donating two new benches to be placed around the pond.
- The 21st Jimmy Fund Al Leonard Tournament will start June 6 at Mitchell Park.
- Go Inspire an exchange program is sending students from Spain to stay with host families in Bethel. These students will participate in our Jr. and Sr. Camps, and 14 students will be Counselors in Training. Go Inspire is presently still looking for more host families for boys age 12-18.
- The director is working on the Town Commercial Center Plan to improve and expand the Street Scape to include School Street and Library Place. This plan includes sidewalks for both sides of School Street.
- P. T. Barnum Square: The four sidewalks that go across the center of the green has become a hazard as people are not using the crosswalk and are stepping into the streets. Request has been made to remove the sidewalks. The bricks would then be recycled or reused.
A grant would be used for the above improvements. After some discussion Lou Valenti made a motion that the Park and Rec. Commission approve the design change for safety and design esthetics, second by Pat Morton and approved by all present.
- Update on cell tower: The director met with Jim Lacey and AT & T at Mitchell Park to review the proposed location of the Cell Tower. The conceptual site plan and tower plans were submitted to the commission for review as well as the health reports that the director researched. If Parks and Rec. would like to pursue having the cell tower at Mitchell Park the Commission needs to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. After much discussion and hearing from everyone present at the meeting a decision was made. Lou Valenti made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Commission deem that Mitchell Park is not an appropriate site for a cell tower, seconded by Gary Regan. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

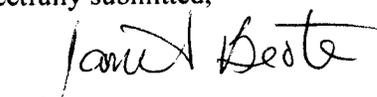
DOG PARK: Some concerns have been raised on the Meckauer Park location for the Bethel Bark Park. Parloa Park was suggested as a better location. After some discussion it was decided that additional research would be completed by the Commission and Director on both sites before a recommendation can be made to the Board of Selectmen. A report will be made at the next scheduled meeting.

FRANC PROPERTY: The 2014 Connecticut Trails Day Weekend is June 7 & 8. Discover the woods and open fields of Bethel's Franc Property and the adjacent Newton Bruno Preserve on Sunday, June 8 from 1:15 to 4:00 pm. Questions and to register: contact leader John O'Neill, 203-748-3801.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Lou Valenti made a motion which was seconded by Gary Regan to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, **June 25, 2014** at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet Beote, Recording Secretary