PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 27, 2014
Minutes

PRESENT: Meghan O'Connor, Angelo Franzese, Patrick Morton, Bill Pullan, Gary Regan, Rachael McGrath, and Eileen Earle.

ABSENT: Laura Ferguson and Lou Valenti.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes for June 25, 2014 was accepted on a motion by Gary Regan, seconded by Pat Morton then approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: Expenditures Report; Adjustments may be made to some accounts. Cash Balance Report shows a $7,486 increase over this time last June.
On a motion by Gary Regan and seconded by Bill Pullan, the Accounts Payable, Payroll and Income were accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you from St. Thomas' Episcopal Church for our donation of a $50 gift card to make the St. Thomas Spring auction a huge success. Norma Schmidt-Priest in Charge.
- Thank you from Girl Scout Troop 50151 for all our support by giving them the paint, woodchips, and delivering the benches to complete their Bronze project. This project improved the Johnson School playground.
- Thank you to Eileen and staff for all their help with Relay, delivering chairs, tables, cots and putting on the track lights when it got so dark. Laura, Mary Claire and Carol Ann
- Thank you to our staff for getting the flower planters at the library in time for the Seelye Open House. They made the Library entrance very welcoming for all who came to this event. Lynn Rosato, Bethel Public Library.
- Thank you for our support of the 40th Annual Bethel 15 U Jimmy Fund Tournament which raised $2,000 for kids with Cancer! Sincerely, William E. Pullan Tournament Director
- Thank you to Eileen and the Parks & Rec. Staff, for providing such a wonderful experience to the Go Inspired Spanish students this summer! All the campers and counselors had a wonderful and positive experience. Margo & Go Inspired Staff

PROGRAMS:

- **Completed Programs:** Summer Camps were great, larger enrollment this year but we had plenty of staff. Movie Night, big turnout for our first movie; Frozen with less people attending the 2nd movie; Catching Fire. Third movie was cancelled due to the budget cuts. We may only schedule two movies next year.
- **Programs Planned:** The Fall flyer is on line and a copy will be sent to the schools on Friday to be sent home with the students. Registration will be starting on Saturday, Sept. 6 in the Municipal Center G. P. Room from 9am-12 noon. Travel Basketball tryouts will start September 16 in the Municipal Center Gym.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The director reported that with the Budget process this summer the Parks and Recreation Dept. took a hard hit. Discussion followed on how to best educate the public on all that the Parks and Recreation Dept. does for the Bethel Community.

DOG PARK: Donations received for the proposed dog park now totals $4,668.25. Mrs. Earle proposed that the best location for the dog park would be the lower, old playground area at Meckauer Park. After much discussion and looking at a map of the area, a motion was made by Angelo Franzese to present this area at Meckauer Park for a dog park, to the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Gary Regan. Vote all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Mrs. Earle will present the proposal at the next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting. She will then also set up a meeting with the girl scouts.

FRANC PROPERTY: A letter was received from Brett Lehner, Bethel Resident, graduate of BHS, University of CT and a LEED certified GA. His interest is in a local, organic garden for the Franc Property with a mixture of rentable spaces and edible landscaping, walking paths and fruit trees. Even though this sounds like a great idea having a community garden, we need to respect the wishes of the Franc family. This property was deeded to the town to be preserved as open space, to be used for passive recreation while being kept in its natural state. Mrs. Earle also stated that the Bethel Land Trust has also expressed an interest to help maintain this space. It was decided to invite Beth Cavagna, of Planning and Zoning, to the next meeting to go over the use agreement for this property. As there seems to be an interest in a community garden we need to also consider other locations as well. Any decisions made would need the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Bill Pullan made a motion which was seconded by Angelo Franzese to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, **Sept 24, 2014** at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Beote

Janet Beote, Recording Secretary