PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014
Minutes

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

ABSENT: Angelo Franzese, 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 Sept. 24, 2014 was accepted on a motion by Gary Regan, seconded by Laura Ferguson, and then approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: Expenditures Report was reviewed. Cash Balance Report shows a slight decrease over this time last Oct. but will increase as the Travel Basketball fees are received and deposited. On a motion by Gary Regan and seconded by Pat Morton, the Accounts Payable, Payroll and Income were accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PROGRAMS: Fall programs started Sept. 22 with just a couple of cancellations in the infant early toddler classes. All of Ms. Sharon's classes has good enrollment with positive feedback from the parents. The winter flyer has been sent to all the elementary schools and is posted on the Parks and Rec. website. All our programs offered will see an increase in the coming winter session due to the fall sports season ending soon. Basketball registration is continuing and will pick up as we get closer to the November 8 deadline.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- High School Sports and Youth sports are closing out their season; schedules went well. The field maintenance season is slowing up, fewer fields to maintain and line. Leaf pickup will continue.
- Work to be done on the Rockwell Field due to a car driving on it last weekend. Waiting for the car ID from the surveillance camera on the field.
- Sidewalks and steps on the GP Room/front Gym side of the Municipal Center are done, with railings being installed next week. As soon as the inspections are completed and approved, this area will be open and work on the Selectman/Tax Dept. front half of the Municipal Center will start.

DOG PARK: Approval received from the Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commission and the Health Dept. for the proposed use of Meckauer Park for a dog park. Health Dept. modifications were required and made regarding state requirements to having the fence in area 100 feet from the park's well. Eileen met with the Girl Scouts to discuss the changes in the dimensions of the park and location for a doggie water fountain. After some discussions the commission decided to still have a small dog park included in the plans for the park. Silvestri Fencing will return to re-measure the proposed area, with the fencing installed by December. Park rules will be posted as well as injury procedures and phone numbers to call in case of an emergency. The goal is to have the park officially open by March, 2015.

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RUBINO PROPERTY: The director, Eileen Earle, met with Martin Lawlor, Town Counsel, Steven Palmer and Beth Cavagna of Planning & Zoning, and Peter Olson, attorney for the Rubino family to discuss this valuable land offered to Parks and Rec. for recreational purposes. This 4 ½ acre property is located off Hawleyville Road, north and adjacent to the Copper Square Development project. This property is flat and not forested and can be used as a multi-purpose practice field for soccer or lacrosse, which would allow our playing fields to rest. There is already a level parking area on the property we could improve for our use. A good portion of the property would be kept as open space with trees planted as a barrier for the neighbors. A traffic study will be completed by Planning and Zoning. A public hearing will need to be scheduled with certified letters sent to the home owners in the area.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Gary Regan made a motion which was seconded by Bill Pullan to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Beote

Janet Beote, Recording Secretary