

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014

Minutes

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

ABSENT: Laura Ferguson and Bill Pullan.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes for October 22, 2014 was accepted on a motion by Pat Morton, seconded by Gary Regan, abstained by Angelo Franzese and Lou Valenti, and then approved by the remaining members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: The Expenditures Report was not available to review. Cash Balance Report shows a slight decrease over this time last November but will continue to increase as all the Basketball fees are received and deposited by the end of November. On a motion by Pat Morton and seconded by Angelo Franzese, the Cash Balance Report was accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The SCOTTY Fund will be holding their annual SCOTTY Winter's Eve Gala on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014. Linda Anderson, President, the SCOTTY Fund, Inc. requested a donation of a gift certificate or gift from the Parks and Rec. Dept. for the Scotty Christmas Tree Auction to help raise money for families with ill children. Request approved.
- The Bethel Education Foundation will be hosting its annual Barnum Ball Fundraiser & Auction on March 21, 2015 to raise money to support and enhance education for all school-age children in Bethel. Request for our support in the form of Services or Gifts/Gift Certificates to be auctioned. Request approved.
- The Commission decided to approve the application received from the N.Y. Giants to have a Youth Football Camp next summer in July. The camp would be for one week, from 9am-12noon for students, ages 6-14 years old. The Giants will pay \$75.00 a day for use of the Stadium Field.

PROGRAMS: Fall programs are going well and will be ending next week. The Intown Draft for basketball was last week with approximately the same number of kids as last year. As we still need coaches we will need to utilize our staff to help out with the teams on the weekends. Winter registration started Saturday, November 8 and is going well especially in the Pre-school and After School Programs. Typically in the winter our enrollment increases due to fall sports ending. Rachael, our Rec. Supervisor, is working with the YMCA to offer a Free Blood Pressure program.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Fall Fields usage is done, fields held up well due to less rain this season. Leaf pickup will continue.
- The Park's Maintenance Statement, Level I & II will be review at the next meeting in December.
- Planning to offer the NYSCA Start Smarts program for our youth this spring.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

DIRECTOR'S REPORT continued:

- The department received the new Ford 350 truck. It has 4 wheel drive, 4 doors and extended cab. A plow will be added to the budget.
- The next step for the Rubino property, multi-purpose field is to have the Traffic Flow study completed, and obtaining State approval.
- Bennett Park: Discussion followed regarding increasing the non-refundable rate to reflect the rising costs to run the facility. The rate will increase by \$50.00 but also reflects gaining the use of the indoor building and bathroom. In the past we charge an extra fee of \$75 weekday/\$125 weekend for use of this additional building/bathroom, now everyone will pay one fee for use of the whole park and facilities. A motion was made by Angelo Franzese, to accept the new Fee schedule for Bennett Park and present it to the Board of Selectmen for their approval, seconded by Gary Regan. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

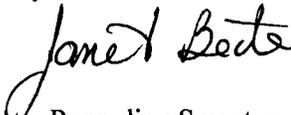
BUDGET: During the Budget process, the Parks and Recreation Budget sustained a \$12,000 cut in the Budget. The Director requested \$157, 222 for the Part Time Staff Salary and received \$144,723. Our part time staff is vital to the Dept. in not only helping to maintain the parks and fields to the highest standard for our town but also to staff the summer camps. Our summer camp enrollment has increased significantly this past year, which would make it very difficult to cut staff. State guidelines for the minimum wage will also increase January 1, 2015 to \$9.15 an hour, which would impact our budget with an increase of \$15,000 for the year.

PARK GUIDELINES: The Director will be meeting with the Association Presidents, Dec. 11 to review the Guidelines for Use of Bethel's Recreational Facilities and Athletic Field Use Procedures.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Gary Regan made a motion which was seconded by Lou Valenti, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Beote, Recording Secretary