

MINUTES

Recreation Commission Meeting 3/28/16

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM at Carby Street. Note that the meeting record shall reflect that the member Bob Phillips is attending remotely via speakerphone for March 28, 2016 under 940 CMR29.00.

Recreation Commission attendees: Paul Aries, Joyce Cannon, Mitch Katzman, Dave Reilly, Lynn Connors, Elizabeth Phillips, and Bob Phillips via phone. Absent: Sheila Moylan and Ann Delaney.

Recreation staff attendees: Nicole Banks

Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda including the minutes from February 22, 2016 meeting was made by Dave Reilly, seconded by Joyce Cannon. Passed unanimously.

Commission Member Reports:

Joyce Cannon reports that the WLL Parade and Deerfield Field Grand Re-Opening is scheduled for April 30. Parade to leave Town Hall at 9am, up High Street, to Gay Street, turning on to Deerfield Ave and around the Deerfield School to the field. Pat Ahern will throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Wally the Green Monster will be in attendance, balloon animals and concession table.

Public Comment:

Brian Hunt, current president of the Westwood Little League (WLL) outlined the League's interest in hosting State Championship at Morrison Field. The dates proposed are Thursday through Sunday, July 28-31. He understands the effort required to facilitate the event is significant but adds that it would be a wonderful thing for the community and for baseball in Westwood.

Rob Gotti, past President of WLL, discussed the background of the Morrison Field re-construction and the original vision of the League that the site would be able to host a state championship. Tom Bean, field coordinator for WLL, is requesting that no permits be issued for Morrison for two weeks in advance of the tournament to allow Westwood DPW to prepare the field for the event, including adding WLL logo and possible checkerboard design to the field. Cost to be absorbed by WLL. There will be limited time to prepare the field and the estimated additional expense to prepare and maintain the field for this event is \$10,000-15,000.

Paul Aries asked about the potential to host the Little League championship back to back years but the location is specifically rotated around the state each year between the 16 districts. This is unlikely according to WLL. There is a permit request which would be impacted by the restricted use in advance of the Championship event. The Field Policy is in place and the proposed event raises challenges due to the current construction of the Fire Substation. Anticipated participation number of 1000+ could be safety issue.

Mitch Katzman commented that the tournament is a great opportunity for WLL and the Town in general and that WLL and many volunteers have done a fantastic job to develop the facilities to allow for this opportunity.

Public comment was recognized. Paul Aries stated that this is a Fields Policy issue and that Nicole Banks and Mike Griffin will handle it according to that policy and working in conjunction with all parties as has been the practice in such cases.

Report of the Director:

Annual Report attached and it will be submitted on Thursday, so any requests for changes are needed prior to that.

Annual Conflict of Interest/Ethics compliance for staff and Recreation Commission members is due. All Commission members need to complete the Summary and online training by the end of March and submit certificate indicating same. CORI background check forms are also due at this time.

Fishing Derby scheduled for Saturday, May 7 from 7 - 11 am at Buckmaster Pond.

Westwood Day - Ready to go for people to start signing up. Thirteen vendors have committed to date. Meeting planned with the school department to discuss inclement weather plan.

March Into Summer event was a huge success. Overall registrations processed and paid for exceeded prior year significantly. Need to consider cloud-based hosting of SportsMan so that the system won't be overwhelmed by high volume of registrations. New option and it may be the way to go moving forward. The vendor would be able to support us during the registration event.

Westwood Young Women's Club has donated \$1700 raised at their annual Winter Festival to help with the maintenance and refurbishing of the play structures at the School Street Playground.

Animal/Dog By-Law – Wording of the bylaw is proposed and a motion to accept is made by Joyce Cannon, seconded by Bob Phillips. The plan is to post the bylaw posted at the turf fields and include in the Fields Policy.

Field Update:

Westwood School Department has transferred \$1000.00 for use of Flahive and Multi-purpose fields for FBU on July 10, 11, and 12th.

Next Meeting: April 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Westwood Public Library.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM made by Joyce Cannon, seconded by Dave Reilly. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connors & Joyce Cannon