

MINUTES

Recreation Commission Meeting 10/19/15

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Paul Aries at 7:12 pm.

Recreation Commission attendees: Paul Aries, Dave Reilly, Bob Phillips, Joyce Cannon, Lynn Connors, and Ann Delaney.

Recreation staff attendees: Nicole Banks

Consent Agenda:

- a) Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2015
 - Nicole Banks read additional notes added not in written copy
 - Amended minutes will be tabled for review and approval at next meeting
- b) Monthly Report – September
 - Vote to approve the Monthly Report for September. Dave moved to approve and Joyce seconded the motion.

Commission Member reports:

Signage regarding dogs on town fields. “Dogs need to be under the command of their owners.” Per the Board of Selectmen

Discussion initiated by Bob Phillips regarding the “inconsistency” of signage of the appropriate allowance of dogs on School Street and maybe other town fields/parks. He would like to see it posted consistently. Discussion to follow that there is a need to check to see what signage is in place on the fields of the town and come back and report.

Public Comment: None from outside of the board.

Report of the Director:

- Westwood Day debriefing outline for review
 - A lot of planning was done the week prior and on the fly to accommodate for the inclement weather and solved many potential problems. Geniuses in common sense within the staff. (Which is not common)
 - 75% of vendors showed up
 - Shifted some things to accommodate weather
 - Guidelines need to be added to help vendors secure their tents for wind/weather
 - Is there a possibility of developing a rain-date or accommodate the vendors inside the gym/cafeteria with the possibility of food vendors setting up outside? Discussion to follow of what could get cancelled as written in a contract in case of inclement weather vs. cancelling event and having to refund payments.
 - Ideas for large stage maybe would work in the large auditorium and smaller stage in the smaller auditorium and use of classrooms for other activities and events
 - EMAIL NICOLE ANY FUTHER COMMENTS
- Westwood Day Budget summary as of 10/15/15
 - Comparison to be done next meeting assess profit margins 2014/ 2015 WWD
 - Get an updated budget

- Need more sponsors or raise cost for vendors
- Maybe assess the amount of activities budget
- Look at cost of stage with the possibility of combining the stages' location.

- Field updates
 - a. Deerfield
 - Field redevelopment – project construction has started
 - Cost to lay sod (in lieu of seeding) \$12,000 over allocated funding
 - Funding requests to sport user groups (soccer, softball)
 - Waiting to hear from sport user groups
 - Softball group needs to purchase new storage shed, permission to place was discussed not cost during previous meetings
 - Recreation Department willing to match donations

 - b. Playground updates
 - School Street playground repairs scheduled for 10/19/15
 - Went well, rock climbing equipment repaired, new handholds installed
 - Recommendation to replace chain on hanging pods with stainless steel chain
 - New inclusive seat hung
 - School Street inspection and staff shadowing scheduled for 10/26/15
 - Rec and DPW staff to continue inspections

Other items:

- Active discussion with concern of BAYSTATE FLAG FOOTBALL unsanctioned use of town fields in an organized fashion. Need for discussion regarding Bay State Flag Football games being held on fields that are not utilized. Practices are “Not officially sanctioned”. Discussion regarding liability during play time as these games are officially classified as “not sanctioned by an organized group.” Letter to state: “Please advise your coaches that unofficial practices do not meet recreation department policy, and therefore cannot claim liability through the town.” We find this to be unique in the sense that other sport organizations use permits for field use for practice and games. A WORK IN PROGRESS...
 - a. Using the following field: Buckmaster, Pheasant Hill, Morrison, Hanlon.
- Discussion of the timing of the re-surfacing of the WHS tennis courts and preference would be to include tennis court lighting project in conjunction with the re-surfacing.

Next meeting: November 16, 2015

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Dave Reilly and seconded by Ann Delaney. Unanimous 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Connors