

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

Minutes

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

ABSENT: Laura Ferguson

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes for June 24, 2015 was accepted on a motion by Gary Regan, seconded by Angelo Franzese, abstained by Lou Valenti, and then approved by the remaining members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME: The Expenditures Report and the Cash Balance Report were review by all present. The Cash Balance Report shows a significant increase over this same time last year, which is due to the increase in enrollment for our Summer Camps. On a motion by Angelo Franzese and seconded by Pat Morton, the Expenditure Report and the Cash Balance Report was accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you from Linda and Mark Anderson for our thoughtful gift of \$1,859.50 from the Fire Cracker Road Race for the Scotty Fund, a nonprofit, charitable organization which provides financial and family support to children with life threatening illnesses.
- Positive feedback received from parents in person and on face book, stating how their children enjoyed the camps and the outstanding staff this year!
- An Eagle Scout project was completed by Daniel Goodman on the Town's newly acquired Franc Property. He worked to clear a blockage in the brook where naturally occurring debris had impeded the flow of the water and then constructed a stepping stone bridge across so that hikers can traverse it. At the completion of all this work he installed a sign, which the Inland Wetland Commission paid for, on one of the banks near the bridge inscribed with the poem, The Bridge Builder.

PROGRAMS: The summer playground camp went well, with increased enrollment in all the camps. In the third session of preschool camp we added an additional 3 staff, to accommodate the larger number of campers. The Jr. and Sr. Camp Early A.M. drop off also showed an increase to 20-28 children per week. The increased camps enrollment reflects in the income received this summer. The new staff Rachael hired was great and fit in well with the returning staff. Rachael also implemented a Parks and Rec. Face book page and the feedback on the staff and the camps were wonderful! Rachael our Recreation Supervisor is commended for all her hard work and dedication this summer!

In Person Fall Registration begins on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 9:00a.m to 12:00 noon in the Parks and Rec. G.P. Room. New this year will be the capability to register on line using credit cards, which will start at 1:00 p.m. Sept. 12th.

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TOWN CLERK

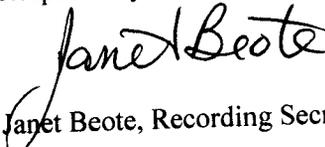
DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- The director is working with the Johnson School Scholarship Committee to host an Elizabeth Teed Memorial Scholarship 5K Road Race on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015. The race will take place in the educational complex and will raise money for the yearly scholarship given to a graduating High School Senior who has received ELL services at any point during their educational career.
- The All Sports Booster Club would like to expand what they offer at the Football Snack Shed. They are working with Parks and Rec. and the Health Dept. to obtain the proper permits to have a fryalator to offer fries during the games at the High School. The Commission will support them in their effort; the final decision will be with the Board of Health.
- Relay for Life will be a one day event this year on June 11, 2016.
- A proposal for the construction of a Multi-Purpose Field on the Rubino Property located on 39 Hawleyville Road in Bethel will be posted on Monday. The construction of the field should start in September and seeded in October. Copper Square has planted a border of evergreen trees for privacy and will supply soil for the field. The parking lot will be a gravel lot. The field should be ready for practices next fall 2016.
- The Park and Rec. Dept. received the 2015 Big Tex Dump Trailer that was ordered for \$7500.00. We can use it not only as a dump trailer but also to transport the lawnmowers.
- Eileen is investigating how to purchase a Topdresser which will spread everything from topdressing and soil amendments to fertilizer.
- BMX has acquired some of our equipment and would like to install a 10x12 storage shed to store this equipment. Eileen will check with the Building Dept. for the proper permits. The Commission is in support of their effort.
- Fall sports are starting in the next couple of weeks, with the High School games starting on Sept. 11th.
- The staff has been trying to stay ahead of the growing grass and the topseeder will help fix areas in Nov. after the fall sports are completed.
- Eileen met with Doug Arndt, Public Works and Peter Eckert, Architects' Guild, LLC to discuss the designs for the locker room renovation located in the Municipal Center. The Municipal Center is a shelter for the town of Bethel and having proper bathroom/shower facility during an emergency is crucial. Final design will be completed by next month.
- The John DeMille 50th Annual Firecracker went well with over 400 runners coming to race. A donation was made to the Scotty Fund and to Ben's Bell.
- The Bethel Bark Park which was opened in May is a big success and enjoyed by many.
- The First Church of Bethel is planning a youth service project. They will be cleaning up and trimming at Meckauer Park.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will be doing an adult service project and will work to clean up at Overlook Park this fall.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Angelo Franzese made a motion which was seconded by Lou Valenti, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet Beote, Recording Secretary