

# PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

## Minutes

**PRESENT:** Meghan O'Connor, Angelo Franzese, Patrick Morton, Gary Regan, Kevin Riley, Rachael McGrath, and Eileen Earle.

**ABSENT:** Laura Ferguson, and Lou Valenti,

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meghan O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of the minutes for **March 23, 2016** was accepted on a motion by Kevin Riley, seconded by seconded by Gary Regan, and then approved by all members present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL AND INCOME:** The Expenditures Report and the Cash Balance Report were reviewed by all present. The Cash Balance Report shows a decrease over this same time last year, income will increase as we start summer camp registration on Monday. The Expenditures Reports is where it should be for this time of the year. On a motion by Pat Morton and seconded by Lou Valenti, the Expenditures Report and the Cash Balance Report were accepted and unanimously approved by all members present.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you from St. Mary School and the 2016 Vive La France Dinner Dance and Auction Committee for the Parks and Recreation donation of a gift certification, value at \$100.00. Request received from a resident to use Parloa Park for a family soccer event.

**PROGRAMS:** Registration for the spring mini session and summer camps will start on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Rachael will start interviews for summer camp counselors positions the first week of May. A yoga instructor contacted Rachael and is interested in offering a mediation/yoga class. The class proposed would be offered at the Yoga Space in Bethel located in the Big Y shopping plaza.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- The Bethel Arts Group will have a Downtown Public Sculpture Exhibit in May, with large scale sculptures placed on the Municipal Center front lawn and in various areas downtown.
- Complaints received regarding the holes in the dog parks. The maintenance staff fills in the holes every morning at 8:00 a.m. and the fence has been repaired and properly secured. Signs will be posted requesting dog owners to stop their dogs from digging and to use the shovel and dirt in the park to fill in the holes.
- Complaints also received regarding groups going to Parloa Park after 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon and on weekends drinking and playing soccer. The director will check with the Police Dept.
- Request for a new maintenance staff was approved as well as the fence repair work, and the Meckauer Park Basketball court improvement.
- Complaint also received regarding the out of town cars at Meckauer Park.

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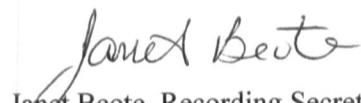
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- The water at Meckauer and Bennett Park has been tested according to the new regulations and the parks are open.
- Eileen is working on the summer Baseball Schedule as several groups have made requests for the use of Fields.
- The Teen Center Director, Claudia Fortunato and Eileen are working closely with the Bethel Board of Education on sharing the Teen Center space. This space is utilized during the day for educational purposes and after school hours for the teen center.
- The School administrators are interested in having the Parks and Rec. Dept. manage and assume responsibility for the after school programs offered from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. every day for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade at Rockwell, Berry and Johnson School. Eileen will meet with them next week to discuss the details.
- Turf field: Meeting next week with the Board of Ed. to discuss the process, funding etc. Public Works will be submitting the mechanical drawings.
- Relay for Life is June 11<sup>th</sup> and will be a one day event this year, no overnight.
- We are following the state guidelines for fertilization on the school fields and are using Lawn Doctor.
- The Franc Preserve Management Plan was discussed and review by all members present. Lou Valenti voiced his concerns regarding all terrain vehicles driving in the park and destroying the natural habitats. Suggestion was made to chain off the area where they are accessing the preserve. As Lou walks this area quite frequently he suggested that the commission take a tour of the area to help make management decisions for this natural, scenic and passive recreational area. A motion was made by Lou Valenti that we accept the Franc Preserve Management Plan and authorized Eileen to work with Don Warfield of the Bethel Land Trust, seconded by Kevin Riley, then approved by all members present.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Kevin Riley made a motion which was seconded by Lou Valenti to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next Parks and Rec. Commission meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Franc Preserve**, Plumtrees Road, Bethel, CT.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Beote, Recording Secretary