

Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 3, 2017 **Approved 06-07-2017**

Meeting began at approx. 6:30 pm

Present: Ronalee P., Ryan M., Sean T., Mike A., Angelica M.

Guests: Ray Cote, David Proctor, T.J. Rowe, Nate Ingalls, Ken Lennon

New Business

Special Guests

Dave Proctor stated that the Special Athletes would like to use the softball field at Lion's Park during the summer months. They are requesting the field on Sunday nights from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm for June, July, and August. The Special Athletes hold a tournament the first week in August and have a certified coach, two certified assistant coaches, and volunteers. Last year there were 30 kids; this year registration is about the same. The Special Athletes do not practice in rain or heat and there is always a Red Cross person on site. They cannot charge the athletes to practice and cannot fundraise due to the Newburyport Elk's rules. Sean asked Dave if the liability insurance is through the Special Olympics or the Elks Club. Dave answered that insurance is provided through the Special Olympics. Ronalee stated that the Commission was fine with the Special Athletes using the field again this year provided they submit the field use permit, liability insurance, and fee for the field use.

Angelica welcomed Salisbury Youth Baseball and Softball league and stated that she asked them to attend the meeting to discuss a few things in regards to the fields. Nate asked for a bigger storage box. Angelica replied that purchasing a larger storage box is the responsibility of the league. Ronalee agreed and Sean reiterated that the only money the Commission has is from fundraisers and user fees. Angelica stated that since the league gets to use the field free of charge, that the league is supposed to be self-supporting and provide in kind services in lieu of fees. Ray mentioned that the lime needs to be removed from the bathrooms, there are open bags in there right now and it is a safety issue. Nate responded that the league would remove the lime as soon as possible and move it into the storage shed. Ken reported that numbers are down, this year only 130 kids are registered compared to the normal 700-800 kids. Normally the league has more funds to do stuff, but this year is tight due to low enrollment. Other sports are becoming more popular such as lacrosse and flag football. Sean responded that he understood but the Commission takes in less than \$2,000 a year from field use fees. Ronalee mentioned that Flag Football puts a lot of money back into the field. The Commission would like to move the league up to the Partridge Brook Park next year since there are two fields available up there. Ken responded that they were interested in the new field. Nate mentioned that the beach field has been an issue this year. When kids attend flag football, parents are letting their dogs run around on the field, and not picking up after them. Angelica responded that she would talk to the dog officer and ask him to enforce the area. Nate also mentioned that the first dug out at Lion's Park needs repair. Ray responded that he would help the league take care of the issue. Nate reported that the league is still fundraising for a new electronic score board. The beach field needs a serious overhaul. It is in tough shape and could really use fill, scrape in reshape. In the fall the bases need to be retrofitted. He would like to see the \$30,000 for the beach field used for repairs. Sean responded that the Commission should wait until there is a new DPW director and also mentioned that prevailing wage would need to be paid, increasing the cost. Ray responded that he would rather leave the \$30,000 for bathrooms and bring in water and sewer.

Review/Vote to approve minutes from April 5, 2017

Tabled

Revolving Fund/Donation Account

Tabled

Tortoise and the Hare 2017

Tabled

Skate Park @ Partridge Brook Park

Ronalee reported that Lisa Pearson, Wilma Mahoney, and herself are in the process of coming up with a plan to talk to the businesses and banks. They are waiting until Austin and Keenan are home from college to take them to the banks.

Other Business

Ronalee reported that the Town Common redesign is coming along. She reminded the Board of Selectmen and Neil Harrington that the Commission has to be kept in the loop as the Common under the Commission's purview.

Old Business

Basketball Hoop @ Skate Park

Tabled

Beach Field

Tabled

PARC Grant

Tabled

Volleyball

Ronalee reported that Officer Sforza bought a new volleyball net as the old one was in disrepair. She told him to see Angelica at the Public Works so she could submit his receipt for reimbursement.

Other Business

None at this time

Meeting ended at approximately 8:30 pm.