

Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2017 **Approved 01-03-2018**

Meeting began at approx. 6:35 pm

Present: Ryan M., Sean T., Mike A., Ronalee P., Lisa D., Leigh-Anne R.

Guests: Angelica M.

**New Business**

Review/Vote to approve minutes from October 4, 2017

Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes, Ronalee seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes approved as written.

Skate Park @ Partridge Brook Park

Ronalee reported that the town did get the PARC grant for roughly \$600,000 but it must be paid back. The commission needs to find out what the grant includes such as cameras, playground equipment etc. Angelica added that the cameras would be helpful as the area is secluded. Sean suggested that some of the money raised from Tortoise and the Hare go to the concession stand at Partridge Brook Park.

Partridge Brook Park Concession Stand

Ronalee stated that about \$30 to \$35 thousand will be donated by Shea Concrete but this was not enough to add 2 handicap bathrooms. Lisa P. went to the Eastern Bank for funding. They said no but she is planning to return to the bank with Ronalee who will bring the boys helping with the skate park. At this time she does not know how much more money is needed for this project. Angelica mentioned Uni-Bank as another bank to check out. Ronalee will keep the commission posted on how much is needed and any other info.

Sean suggested that the commission use the proceeds from the Tortoise and the Hare race specifically for the Partridge Brook Park Concession stand. Angelica said the commission raised \$10,000 last year (to which Sean thought the commission could bank some then ask the bank for the rest as a loan). Ronalee suggested maybe the commission could have a spot to donate more money during our events. A discussion ensued about possibly changing the rates for the race to give a discount for Salisbury residents. As this could possibly entice more residents to participate in the race. Ronalee suggested lowering the price for early registration as well. Sean also suggested that the commission could get other groups such as the PTA involved and raffle tickets items. He also thought the commission should start knocking off the small items to be done at the park with the money the commission has now. Then the commission will only have the larger items to handle. Angelica said the commission could get prices established then could advertise on SCTV. Sean stated that the commission could also pick other sites to improve. Ronalee wants to make a punch list of the things needed to be done. Angelica reported that there is too much in the revolving fund and handed out the most current spreadsheet for review. She would like the commission to transfer more money out to the Partridge Brook Park fundraising line item.

Pickle ball

Tabled

Dog Park Sponsorship

Ronalee informed the commission that there is a new dog groomer coming to town. Leigh-Anne handed out the information on the veterinarians, dog groomers, and pet supply companies in the area as well as the costs for the pet waste stations and a list of suggestions on how to create this dog park. She also explained the types of pet waste stations available for sale. Lisa suggested registering the dogs that would use the park so that the commission can insure they are vaccinated prior to using the park which will protect the town and the other pets in the area. Angelica mentioned that the gate is broken and she informed Ray. It is an easy fix. Angelica said people are leaving their pet waste bags as litter right now. Sean suggested that it be put in writing that the animals be up to date on shots and that a sign stating this should be placed at the dog park. The town and the commission need to be concerned that these animals don't bite other dogs or humans, and that the owners are responsible for picking up the waste. The commission will also need to promote it so that more people will actually use it. The commission needs to be more specific – where is the money going? Ronalee said the commission could solicit the groomers, vets etc. Angelica suggested Kurgo in

particular, as they are a local company. Leigh-Anne also mentioned plaques for the donors so that it is free advertising for them on an on-going basis. There was discussion about who would dispose of the waste and the commission will need to find out how much it will cost for a company to service the stations. The commission does not have a large budget to work with at the time. There was also some talk about another location being added at a later date.

#### Other Business

#### Review/Vote to approve minutes from August 23, 2017

Ronalee made a motion to approve the minutes, Mike seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes approved as written.

#### **Old Business**

#### Basketball Hoop @ Skate Park

Angelica reported that the Basketball hoop is up and the bench will be put in during the spring

#### Flag Football @ Partridge Brook Park

Ronalee reported that flag football ended Friday. There were no parking signs per the police. Parking is a problem but the season went well.

#### Beach Field

Angelica mentioned how the \$35,000 that was appropriated for the beach field needs to be spent. Ronalee stated that the commission cannot table this anymore; decisions need to be made for that field. Ryan suggested another dog park to service the beach residents. Angelica reminded everyone that the commission will need more waste stations or possibly build a utility field. Mike asked if there were any adult softball teams/leagues. Sean said the commission can't get it done for this season but in the spring this should be put on the agenda to show expectations on the care of the field. Lisa suggested that the commission require a bond from the leagues and other organizations that will be using the field. Ronalee requested clarification on bonds so Lisa explained that the bond will ensure that the field will be maintained. If the league or organizations do not care for the field throughout the season, the bond can be used to repair any damage they have caused. Angelica thought the commission should make a list of the dollar values to care for the field after use. Sean suggested that the commission only do the minimum to care for the field such as rake and mow. The leagues would be responsible for the rest. There should be designated parks personnel that will be responsible for specific tasks in the maintenance of the field. Ronalee stated that the commission needs to have the leagues and organizations using the field come to a meeting. Ryan suggested the leagues/organizations come to our meeting in January or February so that they will be reminded of what is expected of them in return for the field use. These expectations should be written out. Leigh-Anne suggested that the town talk to local Boy Scout troops to see if they have Eagle Scout candidates. These candidates could take on the project of repairing the field. This would alleviate the town of costs and be a great service project for the scout. They could also take on other projects in the town that would eventually benefit all the residents such as the dog parks.

#### PARC Grant

Angelica mentioned how the Town Common project seemed to be moving along. Ronalee said that the town was researching to ensure the veterans were living in Salisbury at the time of their service.

#### Volleyball

Mike reported that 9 people showed up to volleyball. It is going well.

#### Other Business

Tortoise and the Hare race will be held on April 14, 2018. The commission will be sending out letters ~~now~~ for sponsorship and participation.

Meeting ended at approximately 7:43 p.m.