

Recreation Commission Minutes May 20, 2008

Tana Babbitt not in attendance
Len Cidado in attendance
Kathleen DeGrandis not in attendance
Charlie Hammond in attendance
Mike McDonald, Chairman in attendance
Elizabeth Nikiciuk not in attendance
Robert Benton in attendance

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance
Anne Daley, Program Director not in attendance

Re: Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Meeting commenced at 7:03PM

Review and Vote on April Minutes

Mike motioned to accept, Len seconded, all in favor, April minutes accepted.

Old Business

No old business to report.

Town Pool Discussion

As a cost cutting strategy, the department decided to change the opening time of the town pool from 10am-12pm. The start time for swimming lessons was also changed from 8am-10am. This comes after several complaints that the water is too cold at 8am for swim lessons and no swim lesson sign-ups in the 8am time slot last season. Staffing adjustments will also be made so that lifeguards are sent home as attendance at the pool decreases in the afternoon. SERD members are upset about the change in pool hours as expressed by an email sent by SERD President, Robin Horrigan. They are requesting that the pool remain open at 10am to accommodate the afternoon nap times of small children. Mike suggests that we make adjustments to the schedule to accommodate SERD's request. Jennifer said the schedule could be changed back, but this would entail reprinting thousands of brochures and disrupting the schedule of several families that have already signed up for swim lessons. She spoke with head lifeguard, Tara Minnette, about running swim lessons and public swimming at the same time. Tara thinks this would be difficult, as a large portion of the pool is taken up by lessons for three different skill levels. Tara also feels the children will lose focus when there is public swimming taking place at the same time. Jennifer said another option would be to open the pool at 10am on Friday, Saturday and

Sunday when no swim lessons are scheduled. Len thought it would be a good idea to invite SERD to a Commission meeting so that they can understand the department's entire budget, not just the pool. He suggested that we allow SERD members into the pool at 10am. This would be a small group and shouldn't be too disruptive to the swim lessons. He wondered if SERD would be willing to fund the salaries of the lifeguards for those two hours if our department came up short. He likes the idea of doing an hourly head count at the pool for department records. Jennifer will discuss these options with SERD and make a final decision. If SERD would like to meet with the Commission, Jennifer will organize a meeting. Mike noted that in years past, it has been difficult to maintain quality staffing at the pool. He said good quality staff needs some sort of commitment pertaining to the hours they can expect to work each week.

Community Build Project Update

Jennifer reported that the DPW is scheduled to level the field at the playground site on May 27th. Doug King is donating his bulldozer for this work. Mike Parodi from Ulti-Play will be there to mark the structure area so that Dig Safe can be called. Fence repairs are also needed. Jennifer will call Canton Fence Company for a quote. A volunteer email list has been formed and information has been sent to local businesses, schools, volunteer groups, churches, and newspapers about the project. Letters have also been sent to over 30 businesses for food, drink, and materials donations. Jennifer will follow up with phone calls. The Snelgrove family would like to help organize a playground dedication ceremony. Jennifer will work to coordinate a date and a list of those to be invited.

Olmsted/Richardson Playground Update

Mike reported that residents voted in favor of the playground article at town meeting. The CPC's request for the legal opinion of Town Counsel, support from the school department, state bid requirements, and playground warranty information is being prepared and organized. Mike will deliver a packet to the CPC at their next meeting that meets all of these requests. Mike would like to set up a meeting with the PAC to map out the project, get questions answered, schedule build dates, and identify any hidden costs. Jennifer will work on getting a meeting organized. Bob reported that residents have expressed concerns about the high cost of the project.

Summer Children's Races and Concerts Update

Jennifer reported that the Children's Races will take place at Frothingham Park on Thursday evenings during the summer. Elizabeth will assist in organizing this event. Easton Women of Today will be handing out freeze pops to participants on selected dates. Mike said this is a great tradition and he encourages Commission members to attend and assist in handing out ribbons to the children.

Jennifer said the summer concerts are scheduled for Wednesday evenings during July and August, alternating with the concerts held at Yardley Rink. So far, Bristol Chamber Orchestra, The Infractions, and Wayne Potash have been booked to appear. Mike asked Jennifer to inquire about the donation from Stonehill College that helps to fund the summer concerts. Bob suggested looking into booking the Baha Brothers. Charlie reported that the Senior BBQ and concert will take place June 23rd from 4-6pm and volunteers are needed.

New Business

Jennifer reported that there are two Recreation Commission terms that will expire on June 30th. Bob plans to re-apply for the position and Jennifer will contact Tana to find out her plans.

Bob asked that we discuss an email sent to the group by Kathy at next month's meeting when she is in attendance.

Len suggested we discuss the Department's vision statement and five year plan at a future meeting as well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14PM

Approval of Minutes

Michael McDonald, Chairman

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director