

Recreation Commission meeting Monday, January 26, 2009

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

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance
Anne Daley, Program Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:18PM

Review and Vote on November Minutes

Bob motioned to accept, Tana seconded, all in favor, November minutes accepted.

Old Business

Mike asked for an update on the reimbursement payments from the Olmsted/Richardson Parent Advisory Councils for the playgrounds. Jennifer reported that a check from the Olmsted PAC has been received and deposited. We're still waiting for payment from the Richardson PAC. Jennifer sent the PAC treasurer a copy of the invoice last week and expects a check in the near future.

Mike asked if any more discussions have taken place regarding the Friends Crossing property. Bob reported that the representatives from Friends Crossing haven't gotten back to the town with a figure for selling the property. Mike Conley is representing Babe Ruth at any meetings regarding Friends Crossing.

Elizabeth asked for an update on the discussion that took place with the SERD Committee at our November meeting which she missed. Is SERD willing to fund operation of the pool next fiscal year? Jennifer said SERD wants to stretch the money as long as possible and would not want it spent all in one year.

Vote to appoint new Chairperson

Mike asked if anyone would be interested in stepping up as a new chairperson for the Commission. He feels someone could spend more time and do more to help Jennifer and Anne run the department. It may also be good to have a new perspective. No one speaks up, so Mike says he will keep the position for now and will let the Commission know if he is no longer able to fulfill the obligation. Len says he is willing to help out by attending meetings that Mike is unable to attend. Bob motioned to appoint Mike chairperson of the Recreation Commission, Len seconded, all in favor, unanimous vote.

2008 Annual Report

Jennifer distributed the annual report she drafted and asked if any changes were needed before submitting it. Mike motioned to accept the 2008 annual report as written, Bob seconded, all in favor, unanimous vote.

FY2010 Budget Request

Jennifer distributed the department's FY2010 budget request. She noted that David Colton asked for a budget with no more than a 3% increase from FY2009. The budget she submitted had an increase of 2.98%. With union raises, she needed to cut \$1550 to keep the budget balanced. This is only a preliminary budget and further cuts may be necessary. She has a budget meeting with David on Thursday and will keep the Commission updated. Mike said if further cuts are needed it should come from the town pool. Len asked if other programs have more attendance than the pool. Anne replied that tee ball gets more participants. Kathleen asked if there are any other programs that don't bring in a profit. Jennifer responded that all of our programs bring in at least a small profit, except those we run for free such as summer concerts. Mike suggested a list be put together of all the programs we can offer once the department moves to Frothingham Hall. He would like to see a calendar of programs with their expected profits. Len asked if the revolving account was separate from the budget. Town Accountant, Wendy Nightingale stopped in on the meeting and gave a detailed description of how the revolving account operates. Liz suggested starting a fundraising initiative. Len said we could ask local businesses to sponsor some of our programs. Kathleen feels fundraising will be difficult at this time. Mike would like to see the average net income for the revolving account and reiterated that the pool should be cut if further cuts are needed in the budget.

Future CPA Projects

Mike stated that the CPA Committee has been pro-active in seeking project requests. He encouraged the Commission to think about ideas for future projects. Len gave the Commission an update on the status of the Williams Street property. Mike said we will invite Pat Hunt to a meeting this spring to discuss potential parcels for recreation.

New Business

Jennifer distributed notes from the Community Visioning Session that took place in October. She noted that a number of the groups had ideas that involve the Recreation Department. Mike thinks it might be a good idea to hire a consulting firm to review an inventory of the recreational properties under the department's jurisdiction and put together a plan on how they can be used to the fullest. Tana said it's too bad there is not more opportunity to utilize space at locations such as Wheaton Farm and Borderland State Park.

Jennifer distributed her fiscal year 2009 second quarter report for review. She said it is time to begin booking concerts for the summer and asked the Commission if they want to move ahead with a full schedule of concerts even with an uncertain budget. Mike said he will leave this decision to Jennifer and Anne when the budget has been finalized. Jennifer reported a tentative date of April 4th for the department's second annual holiday egg hunt. She feels it would be a good idea to charge a small admission fee this year. She and Anne are also working on solutions to the crowd control problems they had last year.

The Commission discussed ideas on what to do for Charlie who is in the hospital with several broken bones after a fall last week.

Mike said he has a chairman's meeting with David Colton next week. If the Commission has any ideas or suggestions for the meeting they can email him.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Approval of Minutes

Leonard Cidado, Commission Member

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director