

Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2009

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

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:12PM

Review and Vote on April Minutes

The meeting minutes of April 28, 2009 were reviewed. Len motioned to accept, Bob seconded, all in favor, April minutes accepted.

Old Business

Mike asked about the status of the Recreation Department budget. Jennifer reported that the revised budget was submitted to David Colton for approval and then presented to the Board of Selectmen. It will be voted on at town meeting June 8th.

Jennifer reported that the SERD Committee will meet on May 27th to vote on releasing funds to the Recreation Department. The department is requesting \$6000 to help run the town pool this summer.

Summer Programs

Jennifer distributed the department's summer program flyers. She reported on the expected revenue of each program based upon last summer's registration numbers. New summer programs being offered include rugby, ultimate frisbee and possibly a swim team at the town pool. She noted that the town pool will close on Sundays as a money saving strategy. The department is also planning to expand options at the pool snack bar and organize some special events at the pool this summer. This may include a dance for middle school children. Bob thinks a dance could be very successful and mentions that a police detail may be needed.

Fall/Upcoming Programs

Jennifer reported on upcoming fall programs. She also distributed a report on the yearly revenue of the revolving account dating back to fiscal year 1998. Mike wants to see the department net \$100,000. He would like to see the department build up four or five programs to generate more revenue. He feels we should concentrate on volleyball, running and basketball as they seem to be popular. Once a new coach

is hired at the high school, he asked Jennifer to get in touch with them to help us organize a basketball program. Jennifer said the running club is very popular and brings in more revenue than other programs because school teachers are hired to lead the program rather than an outside vendor that charges higher fees. She would like to advertise and hire more teachers to lead the department's programs. Bob agreed and added that teachers help promote the programs by spreading the word in school. He would like to see a beach volleyball program in place once the department has their own facility. Elizabeth suggested organizing a summer tee ball and pre-baseball program at Militia Park. Bob added that the town owns the Militia Park field. He will speak with the Easton Youth Baseball League about this. Jennifer said she would also like to try Kindergarten and first grade instructional basketball and cheerleading. Elizabeth suggested offering hockey, whether indoor or outdoor. She will put Jennifer in touch with Peter Gallagher to discuss a hockey program. Elizabeth also suggested holding a road race. Len feels we should create more excitement about sponsoring programs. Bob said this is difficult because all organizations are asking for donations. Len said the one facility we have that no one else has is an outdoor pool.

Recreation Project Slate

Mike feels it is important for the Commission to have some projects in the works and asked for ideas. Bob said Torie's Place Park will need re-seeding in the fall. Elizabeth knows someone who will help with this. In the meantime, Bob will work with his Babe Ruth team to rake the field. Elizabeth said that parents would like to see a playground or park built in South Easton. Bob thinks Henderson Farm would be a good location for a playground and asked about its status. Len responded that the land won't be sold for recreational use.

CPA Update

Len reported that the land being looked at off of Massapoag Avenue is mostly wetlands not suitable for recreational use.

Recruiting Volunteers

Mike feels the department needs more volunteers to help meet the goals of the Commission. Elizabeth feels the Commission should spend more time helping at programs and events. It is important for the Commission to make a presence in the community and support the department. She is recruiting for the open position on the Commission. Mike asked if there is a limit to the number of Commission members. Jennifer responded the limit is seven members. Mike asked that Jennifer put together a monthly calendar of Recreation Department events and email it to the Commission.

New Business

Jennifer reported that Eagle Scout candidate, Jimmy Pires is finishing up his project at Torie's Place Park. He planted shrubs, built picnic tables and benches, raked and lined the tee ball field, put up signs and is working to remove the graffiti on the retaining wall. She asked the Commission how they would like to recognize his hard work. Mike suggested contacting the Easton Journal and sending Jimmy a formal letter and possibly a plaque.

Jennifer passed around a sign-up sheet for help at the children's races this summer. Elizabeth asked if we would be charging a fee at the races and concerts or asking for donations. Jennifer suggests having a donation bucket at all free events this summer. Bob suggested contacting the high school choir to hold a performance at Frothingham Park.

Mike suggested the Commission send Kathleen a thank you letter for her time on the Recreation Commission.

Len said there is a need for an after school fitness and strength training program at the junior high level. He feels the department needs to sponsor this program or it won't get off the ground. Mike asked that Len bring a program proposal to the next meeting. Elizabeth thinks the program should be for all ages up to adults.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02PM

Approval of Minutes

Michael McDonald, Chairman

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director