

Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Tana Babbitt in attendance
Robert Benton in attendance
Len Cidado in attendance
Kathleen DeGrandis in attendance
Charlie Hammond in attendance
Mike McDonald, Chairman in attendance
Elizabeth Nikiciuk in attendance

Jennifer Hruniak, Director in attendance

Meeting commenced at 7:02PM

Review and Vote on August Minutes

Charlie motioned to accept, Bob seconded, all in favor, August minutes accepted.

Old Business

Jennifer reported that the Olmsted/Richardson playground construction is complete. However, it was discovered that the surfacing is one foot short at the end of the slide at the Olmsted structure. The surfacing company will be returning to correct this error as soon as possible. Liz said the children are trained how to properly use the structures during gym class, then assigned a day in which their class can use them. The children love playing on them.

Jennifer handed out copies of a letter sent to David Colton from Bob Carroll's attorney, Michael Sites, regarding fencing the entire perimeter of the property at the Snelgrove Playground. Jennifer met with David to discuss this issue. Based on the fact that the town has deeded rights to access the playground through a right of way along Williams Street, David responded to Mr. Sites that the town will not be fencing the entire perimeter of the playground.

Jennifer reported that the DPW is scheduled to loam and seed the Snelgrove Playground site this month and that trash barrels have now been placed at the site and will be emptied when the DPW mows the area.

Colleen Corona, explanation of SERD Account

Colleen Corona reviewed the charge of Support Easton Recreation Department (SERD). She said SERD did an amazing job of raising money for the town pool in a short amount of time. The purpose was to keep the town pool open in an emergency or assist if operating costs go beyond the budget. SERD intends to hold the money for when it is really needed. SERD has control over the money and the right to vote on expenditures. Liz asked if SERD is an active group. Colleen said yes, they sent out a fundraising letter this year to local businesses. They also elected a new president, Robin Horrigan. Colleen said the group is protective of the money, with the intent of keeping the pool open as long as possible. They are willing to expend money when it is really needed, such as when a pump breaks and needs replacing. Their primary goal is to fill in any funding gaps in the future. The money is held in an account under the Town Accountant's control. In the future, the committee's charge can be revised by the Board of Selectmen if needed.

Jennifer reported an increase in profit at the pool this summer. She will be working on a detailed income and expense report. Tana suggested that we get input from the lifeguards regarding the work schedule changes that were made this summer.

Olmsted/Richardson Playground Invoices

Jennifer submitted three invoices from M.E. O'Brien and Sons for the Olmsted/Richardson playgrounds. The invoices total \$144,174. The CPA warrant article covers \$142,614. The Recreation Commission will pay the \$1,560 balance and has informally asked the Olmsted/Richardson Parent Advisory Councils to reimburse them for the additional installation costs of \$1,020.

Letter to Olmsted/Richardson Parent Advisory Councils

The Commission signed a letter to the Olmsted/Richardson Parent Advisory Councils formally requesting a reimbursement of \$1,020 that the Department incurred during playground construction and payment of future maintenance costs. Mike believes the PACs are operating with a deficit budget. Liz said they just sent out a fundraiser to parents. She requested Jennifer draft an additional letter that the PACs must sign agreeing to pay for future maintenance of the two structures. Liz will be put on the agenda for the PACs next meeting to deliver both letters.

Vote to appoint new CPA Committee Member

Mike submitted his letter of resignation from the CPA Committee. Len volunteered to replace him as the Recreation Commission designee. Charlie motioned to appoint Len as the Recreation Commission designee to the CPA Committee, Mike seconded, unanimous vote. Len will have a three year term on the CPA Committee, expiring June 30, 2011. Jennifer will email Pat Hunt to let her know Len has been voted in.

New Business

Kathleen apologized for being late to the meeting and missing a portion of Colleen Corona's explanation of the SERD account. After reviewing the committee's charge, she feels that the explanation is in conflict with what is written in the charge. It seems that further clarification is needed and possibly wording changes to the charge. Kathleen will contact Colleen to discuss this. She also mentioned that the charge states the Recreation Commission shall appoint two designees to SERD annually. This has not been done. Tana says she considers herself on the SERD Committee and has attended past meetings. Mike motioned to appoint Jennifer and Tana to SERD for a one year term, Liz seconded, unanimous vote. Jennifer will contact SERD President, Robin Horrigan, to inform her of the vote and ask for an updated list of other SERD members.

Jennifer reported attending a meeting regarding Friends Crossing. A proposal from Woodard & Curran includes the construction of two Babe Ruth fields and two little league fields. Mike wondered who will have control over these new fields. He feels that multi-purpose fields would be the best option for new construction. Liz stated that the Recreation Commission should be involved in the decision making process. Len expressed his bewilderment that the town owned field at Militia Park has a thank you banner for Lion's Club grant money. This is the same grant that the Recreation Commission applied for but did not receive. His sponsorship banner was also moved to the town owned field.

Jennifer asked if any Commission members are planning to attend the Community Visioning Focus Group presentations on October 4th so that she can RSVP. Len agreed to represent the Commission at this event.

Jennifer distributed the Fall Programs Brochure to the Commission. She expressed her discouragement at having been denied classroom space within the Olmsted School for an after school science program for children in grades 3-5. She is waiting to hear back from the Richardson School for permission to use a classroom for this program. She also distributed information about the HUGS 10th Annual Walk for Safety and the Victoria Snelgrove Memorial Fund Benefit, both being held on October 18th.

Charlie said that Mansfield is offering an art program for children and suggested we look into offering a similar program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Approval of Minutes

Michael McDonald, Chairman

Jennifer Hruniak, Recreation Director