

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Montague Town Hall Annex

One Avenue A

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Present: Barbara Kuklewicz, Chairperson, Albert Cummings, Vice Chairperson, Jeff Singleton, Secretary, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation

Meeting is being recorded

1. 10:00 a.m. **Meeting called to order**

2. 10:01 a.m. **Vote Parks & Recreation Commission Positions**

Motion: Jeff Singleton makes the motion to re-elect commission members; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Vote: Approved, 3-0,

3. 10:03 a.m. **Approval of February 22, 2024, Minutes**

Motion: Jeff Singleton makes the motion to remove this item from the agenda as it was already approved at a previous meeting; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Vote: Approved, 3-0

4. 10:06 a.m. **Montague Center Park Project Update**

Three bids were received for the construction portion of this project. Mountain View Landscapes & Lawncare, Inc. from Chicopee, came in with the lowest bid at \$265,000. At Monday's Board of Selectmen meeting Jon hopes the board will accept both the contract and the motion to proceed. The commission discussed their concerns regarding the tight timeline for this project's completion date. Jon told the commission he has been in contact with the Division of Conservation Service, overseers of the PARC grant.

5. 10:10 a.m. **Capital Improvement Update & Schedule**

- **Skatepark Lighting Project:** Central Mass Signal's bid of \$95,998 was accepted by the selectboard. They will be shipping equipment and fixtures to Unity Park on August 12, 2024. They expect a September 12 completion. Eversource has been contacted as they will need to finalize the hook up.

- **Garden Well:** Due to the complexities of this project, it has been slow to complete. Four sub-contractors would need to be involved; an excavator, electrician, solar panel company, and a local well company. This project also has to be approved by the Montague Conservation Committee and MA State Conservation Commission because of its proximity to the Connecticut River. Jon is finishing up the quote for the well company. A bid was not necessary for this project as it falls under the necessary cost for bidding.

- **Parking Lot Improvements:** Improvements were completed months ago except for the parking blocks. Jon is working with a company from Connecticut, which hasn't been very responsive, because there aren't very many companies who make these blocks, we continue to wait.
- **Unity Park Playground Surface Repair:** The current pour-in-place is showing signs of wear. Typically, this material will last 15 years, our material was installed 12 years ago.

6. 10:37 a.m. Greenfield Savings Bank Sponsorship Proposal

The Vice President of Giving and Philanthropy approached Jon proposing the bank give an annual \$2,500 instead of giving several smaller amounts to specific programs/events. Although Jon appreciates their generosity, he wanted to ask the commission if he should ask for \$3,500 and the department would place them on all program bulletins, Fun Times and youth t-shirts.

Motion: Jeff Singleton makes the motion to ask for an increase in GSB proposal to \$3,500 and the department will give them recognition on our printed materials and youth t-shirts; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Vote: Approved, 3-0

7. 10:44 a.m. Summer Programs Update

The Summer Fun Times, 2024 edition was included in the Commission's packet. Jon update them on Movies in The Park, youth Super Summer Soccer Jamboree, and Adult Soccer. Summer Camp began last week and participation is strong.

8. 10:46 a.m. Winter Program 2024 Profit/Loss

- **Youth Basketball**, which includes K-1, Junior Travel grades 2 & 3, and Senior Travel grades 4-6. The program took a loss, which seems to be happening these last few years. We do have to pay a gym fee, and for officials for games. Jon does not want to increase the fees as we are competitive with other towns.
- **Bluefish Swim Team** also suffered a loss. Again, we must pay a pool use fee and pay our coaches. At the start of the season, the pool had work done to bring its drain covers up to the federal code, which required us to rent pool time at the Athol YMCA and Amherst Middle School.
- **Sawmill 10K** was able to make money this year. We had 113 runners participate in this annual tradition.
- **Open Swim** ran as scheduled as the pool was fixed by the start of January. This program does not make money as we have to pay for pool usage and pay lifeguards.
- **Babysitting Program** is a small program which lost money; we may want to consider increasing the fee by \$5. The instructor donates her time for the two-day session,

9. 10:54 a.m. FY2025 Strategic Plan Finalize & Approval

Jon asked the Commission if there were any recommendation/additions to the plan. There was discussion over the town's newly acquired Farren Memorial Hospital property. To Jon's surprise there were not any inquiries at the community meetings regarding the inclusion of park or play space. Jon did attend these meetings, and it

seemed like the community was more interested in affordable housing, which was

understandable

Motion: Jeff Singleton makes the motion to accept the FY2025 Strategic Plan as in; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Vote: Approved, 3-0

10. 10:07 a.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission Summer Meeting Schedule

Motion: Jeff Singleton makes the motion to meeting in September unless something comes up in August; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Vote: Approved, 3-0

11. 10:09 a.m.

Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirement

There were no topics.

12. 11:10 a.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Albert Cummings makes the motion to adjourn; seconded by Jeff Singleton.

Vote: Approved, 3-0

X _____

Jeff Singleton, Secretary

_____ Date

or

Signature

Name & Title: _____

Print

Date: _____