

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

3:15 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1<sup>st</sup> Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

**Present:** Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Linda Ackerman, Vice Chairperson, Barbara Kuklweicz, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, Jennifer Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper.

**Guest:** Bruce Hunter, Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (FCHRA)

### Meeting Being Taped

### Agenda:

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** 3:16 p.m.
2. **Approval of January 22, 2014 Minutes:** Barbara Kuklweicz makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Linda Ackerman.

**Vote: 3-0**

3. **Unity Park Improvement Project Update**

Jon let the commission know that the Skatepark received a \$5,000 challenge grant from The Tony Hawk Foundation. We have until August to match this amount for the foundation to release the \$5,000. All money raised after February 1, 2014 will count towards the match. The Skatepark Committee's Poetry Reading held two weekends ago will be applied towards the grant. Also included in the commission's packet was the Skatepark Committee's fundraising strategy. The estimated cost of the skatepark is \$250,000 - \$350,000. Jon, Walter Ramsey, David Detmold, and Brian Dolan met with Peter Wells of Berkshire Design Group last week to discuss potential design areas that could be modified to lower costs. Peter was going to contact the original designer, Pillar Construction, in regard to modifications. The department is applying for \$400,000 for the town meeting article. Jon is hoping that we will have heard back about the modifications so that when the finalization of the article is due in mid-April we will know exactly how much to ask for at Annual Town Meeting in May. The PARC grant is due by mid-July, so we will hopefully have proof by then that the money was approved by the town. The department will not hear back about the PARC grant until the middle of October. Jon reviewed with the commission the town will cover 30% of the cost, while the grant covers 70%.

We anticipate using the Hillcrest ball fields again for tee-ball and the rookie teams this spring. The fields at Unity Park will not be ready to use until mid/late summer. The EGGstravaganza will be at Sheffield this year on Saturday, April 19. The Spring programs will be ready for distribution in the next few weeks.

Bruce Hunter, from FCHRA, spoke about Phase 2.2 (rock climbing structure and sand volleyball court) of the Unity Park Improvement Project. There were four bids received for the project. Two of the bids have flaws and two were acceptable. The acceptable bids were from Taylor Davis Landscaping (who did Phase 2) and Renaissance Builders. The Housing Authority has \$47,794.20 left in the grant, which is short of both bids. The low bidder would have to be accepted, which is Taylor Davis. In order to accept Taylor Davis the department needs \$5337.80. Bruce did have a discussion with Frank Abbondanzio about the bids and the use of discretionary funds. Bruce explained discretionary funds as money coming back from repayment of housing loans. If this amount does not exceed a certain dollar value in a year, it all goes back to the town as town funds. The town of Montague keeps those in a CDBG discretionary fund, and is used for projects in town. These funds were used for the cross-walk outside the playground because the grant did not cover the cost. Because it was not in the grant, a change order was placed and the town funded the cross-walk. Bruce went on to say that the department has two

options; the first is to go to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and request the balance. In order to do this the selectmen have to hold a Program Income Hearing that would have to be posted by Thursday to get on their agenda. This would give the department the exact amount of the bid. If something unforeseen occurs we would have to go back to the selectmen and request a change order. If a change order was needed and the amount was small, the commission has the option to pay the cost difference. If the BOS approve the request to use discretionary funds then we can accept the bid. Frank would hold a program income hearing and if the BOS agreed then the agenda item would be to award the project to Taylor Davis. If the BOS does not approve then the two bids would have to be rejected. The second options would be the commission deciding on which two components (structure or the sand volleyball court) they would like rebid. With this option, both components could not be done, just one. The balance of the funds would then be reprogrammed back into the town's discretionary fund. The commission discussed which component would benefit the community the most and they felt the sand court would most likely be used by many different ages. Bruce let the commission know that he will be at the meeting to answer any questions.

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman makes a motion to accept Option 1 and go to the Board of Selectmen to request the balance for Phase 2.2. Barbara Kuklweicz seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0**

#### **4. Unity Park Fieldhouse Improvements Update**

Jon updated the commission on the new windows situation in regard to Larry Jubb Inc. His bid was accepted last September, the estimate was less than expected so all windows (except the bathroom windows) were added to the project. Measurements were taken but then we never heard back from them. Under Frank's advice Jon wrote a letter to Jubb letting them know that they had until a certain date to contact us or the bid would no longer be accepted. We did not hear back from them. We sent out new quotes; John Corbett Home Construction, Sunrise Windows owned by Joe Graveline, and Pella Windows. John Corbett was the only company that submitted a quote. They were awarded the quote and hope to start the project by the end of March.

The new restroom article was approved at last month's town meeting. Tom Bergeron, DPW director, will be contacting three construction companies. We anticipate that both restrooms will have one stall and be unsexed. Jon hopes the project will begin soon.

#### **5. Playful City USA Application**

As part of the Playful City USA application there needed to be a departmental vision statement. Jon presented the commission with a statement. The commission had no questions or recommendations. The application is due March 20, 2014. MCTV is filming our winter programs for the You Tube video that is part of the application. If we are awarded the Playful City designation, then it would be nice in the coming year to add to this video showing our other warmer season programs.

**Motion:** Barbara Kuklweicz makes a motion to submit the department's vision statement. Linda Ackerman seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0**

#### **6. Montague Catholic Social Ministries/Greenfield Community College Public Gardening Program**

Jon did not provide specific information on this yet as it is still in the developing stages. What he did say was that the two groups are coming together to provide a public gardening program for single mothers. They considered using approximately 10 plots within our community garden but as of this point, they believe they may want to use the area that is currently the Sculpture Youth Park off of Third and Canal Street. They are currently talking with Walter Ramsey about how they could acquire this space. As of this point Jon was still not sure if they are interested in using some of our plots. He does not have issues with them using the plots if they do decide in the future to do so.

#### **7. Code Red-Emergency Communications Network**

The department heads held a meeting with chief of police Chip Dodge. He informed them about a reversed 911 program that they are trying to set up through the town. It is called Code Red-Emergency Communications Net-

work and all departments, if interested, would be able to participate in the network. It does not have to be an emergency to use the network, so our department could use it for making program announcements. The town's general fund would cover the cost. They are still working on the details.

**8. Other Business**

Jon let the commission know that the MRPA annual state conference is March 11-13 in Sturbridge, and he will be attending. He applied for and received a facilities award for the Unity Park Project.

**9. Adjournment 4:30 p.m.**