

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1st Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Linda Ackerman, Vice Chairperson (3:13p.m.), Barbara Kuklweicz, Secretary, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Jennifer Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper.

Guest: Carlos Nieto-Mattei, landscape architect from Berkshire Design Group

Meeting Being Taped

Agenda:

1. Meeting Called to Order: 3:08 p.m.

2. Approval of October 23, 2014 Minutes: Barbara Kuklweicz makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Dennis Grader.

3. Water Spray Feature Re—surfacing

There have been issues with the immediate surface underneath the spray feature relative to the paint since the first year. The area slightly beyond the immediate use area, which is the bituminous concrete (asphalt) also, has issues. Jon contacted Carlos Nieto, designer from the Berkshire Design Group, and invited him to speak to commission members regarding these issues in hope that they can be resolved. Jon also sent out a question to NRPA Connect and Linkdin to see what other communities around the country do with their splash pad surfaces in regard to paint.

Carlos Nieto told the commission the material that we currently have for our splash pad was what was recommended when the park began its improvement process, but now manufacturers have stopped recommending any surfacing. The surfaces that were being recommended at that time were a painted core type surface with slip resistance, and a poured in place surface. They have found that these materials deteriorate quickly, with water quality also playing a factor in life of the material. Heavier water will quicken the deterioration. Carlos has been talking with people from Look Park who have also been having issues with their splash pads. They have tried several different things but with no success. There are products being recommended for splash pads and Carlos presented them to the commission. New to the market and the most expensive products is Aqua Flex® which is very similar to a pour in place system but this product is designed specifically for splash pads. Compound are added to the material making it longer lasting, UV protected, and can withstands chlorine. This product is so new that Carlos has not been able to see it installed. This material can be installed onto any material either as a thin layer or a layered surface giving it a spongy feel. He was not given a price but told it is just over a pour in place which usually cost around \$10-\$15 sq. ft. To give perspective, there is 640 sq. ft. of concrete that needs covering, so it comes in at a cost of \$9,600.00. If we were to cover the area out to the sidewalk, that would be 1600 sq. ft. doubling the cost. The product comes with a 5 year warranty. Another consideration would be Tuff-Coat, which is the least expensive of Carlos' options. This product originally started out as a marine product, used as decking on boats, but has expanded. Waterparks like Six Flags use this material. It is a water-based product with granules of rubber that's applied with a spray gun. The manufacture gives the product a 3-5 year life expectancy when exposed to water. It comes in different colors. It can only be applied over concrete though. This option could be used in the inner concrete area of the splash pad but would need something else over the asphalt area. This product is \$1.75 sq. ft. for materials only, which includes one coat of primer and two coats of the actual material. The surface would have to be prepped and scraped. De-greasing and power washing would have to be part of this prep. Cost for this option, including installa-

tion, at a cost of around \$1,600 for the center concrete area only. The third option is a product called Street Bond, typically used on bike and bus lines. The material is thicker than a traditional paint. This is a four part application process and can be applied over concrete. He has seen this product used with asphalt and is found to be very resilient, with a 4-5 year life expectancy. It is also slip resistant. He's in the process of talking with their technical department because it has not been used on splash pads. The prep with this product is a bit more than with the other options because the existing paint would need to be removed or they will not warranty the product. Colored concrete would be another option for this area but tends to be very expensive. Acid etching is used in this process and Carlos worries that the acid would get into the rain gardens which would not be a good thing. So his main concerns when it comes to splash pads are they control slipping, and a cushion safely surface (not required by codes like a playground). There were other ways this issues could be approach such as removing the asphalt and using just concrete. Also simplifying the design and only have two tones of blue with a circle inside another circle. The cost would be around \$3.50-\$5.00 sq. ft. just for the product. Another issue when dealing with these applications is temperature. There is a very small window for applying these materials; many require 50^o - 70^o and 24 hours of dry weather. So, for this part of the country we're looking at the beginning or end of a summer for application. When Carlos gets definite costs for these products he will send them along to Jon so that a decision can be made.

4. Summer Programs Profit/Loss Statements & Evaluation

Jon felt the summer playground program went well this year. The enrollment was up from the last two summers. There are a few outstanding balances that we are in the process of collecting. Barb asked what the start up cost of the Snack Shack was, and Jon answered that the refrigerator was purchased last summer in anticipation of it opening in the future. A new cash register was needed and snacks were purchased from Food City. Payroll was the biggest expense. We lost money, but Adult Softball was not playing here on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Next summer adult softball will return to Unity and that should increase our sales. Summer Blue Fish went well; our coaches were volunteers for most of the season. We had a couple of parent coaches from Athol that typically swim with the Athol YMCA during the winter season. They don't have a summer swim team and they offered to coach our Blue Fish for free. There were 30 swimmers this summer. There was discussion as to if our softball fields could somehow convert to soccer fields. Jon felt small soccer fields could be a possibility. He has spoke with someone about the possibility of adult soccer but nothing definite has been planned.

Motion: Barb Kuklweicz makes a motion to accept the summer profit/loss statements. Linda Ackerman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0

5. Budget Discussion

Tabled until the November commission meeting.

Vote: 3-0

6. Other Business

Jon would like to request either the week before Thanksgiving or the week after for vacation time.

7. Adjournment: 4:27 p.m.

