

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**February 24, 2015**

**3:30 p.m.**

**Unity Park Field House**

**56 1<sup>st</sup> Street**

**Turners Falls, MA 01376**

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

**Absent:** Dennis Grader, Chairperson

**Meeting Being Taped**

**Agenda:**

**1. Meeting Called to Order: 3:34 p.m.**

**2. Approval of January 21, 2015 Minutes:** Barbara Kuklweicz makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Linda Ackerman.

**3. Skate Park Project**

Berkshire Design Group will be providing the project over site and management of the Skate Park. They along will Pillar Design from California, helped create the design. The Skate Park Committee is requesting minor changes to the original design which would create more open space relative to the individual elements within the park. The Skate Park Committee feels these changes would provide a more user friendly park for the novice skater. There will be a fee with these changes, but the amount is unknown at this time. There is a conference call with Pillar Design and Berkshire Design Group scheduled for next week. We do not have a start date for the project yet.

**4. Rutter's Park Project Update**

Norma's Park has now become part of the update plan. The Franklin County Housing Authority thought the overall project would have more significance if Norma's Park was included in the Community Development Block Grant application. Also, Norma's Park was included in the improvement surveys that went around to the Lake Pleasant community.

**5. Montague Center School Play Structure**

Walter Ramsey contacted Jon stating that the town is finalizing the sale of the Montague Center School property and construction will begin this spring. So, we need to remove the structure from the property by April or May. The time line for this will be difficult because of the installation of the Sway Fun Swing this spring as well. Jon is unsure about getting the equipment representative from the company that installed the structure here on such short notice. There are main beams that most likely will have to be replaced. Since we do not have a space planned for the structure at this time it will have to be stored until a plan for Montague Center Park is created. Organizing a community work bee to help with disassembling the structure could be a possibility. There is old Blacksmith Shop located right next to the park that possibly could be used as storage. Jon needs to talk with Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent, about this matter.

**6. Fieldhouse Restroom Refurbishment Update**

Jon showed the Commission the work that has been completed in the bathrooms. The Commission was happy with the work so far. He estimates another 2-3 more weeks left in the project. He strongly feels this project will done by the time the Spring Programs begin.

**7. FY16' Operating & Capital Budgets**

Jon met with the Finance Committee a few weeks ago, and they had no questions for him regarding the operating and capital budgets. They appreciated the time the department has spent with the town Accountant streamlining the budget. The only suggestion they made was to set up a written agreement with Tom Bergeron relative to what his department spends on the park and what we will spend.

**8. FY14' Departmental Financial Study**

The study provides information on how the department receives and spends its money. The Commission went over the study and made some small changes. Greenfield Saving Bank was added to the Partnership section for their sponsorship of the summer reading program.

**9. 2015 Summer Playground Program Fees**

Every other year we have been raising our fees and Jon recommends that we continue with that, and increase our fees by \$5 this summer. We are still very competitive with other area summer programs. Linda Ackerman questioned why Highland Park was still listed as a playground site. It has been on the program, but has not run as a site for several years.

Jon spoke about the possibility of going into a partnership with the school this summer. The school district lost grant money for the Razzle Dazzle Summer Reading Program, and has contacted us to see if we would be interested in partnering with them for the summer. The school would run a reading program in the mornings and then we would take over the afternoon programing. Everything is in the preliminary stages at this point

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman makes the motion to accept the \$5 increase in playground fees. She also makes a motion to remove Highland Park as a summer playground site. Barbara Kuklweicz seconded the motions.

**Vote: 2-0**

**10. Directors Report**

There were no questions.

**11. Other Business**

Jon will be attending the MRPA State Conference March 10-12 to be held at University of Massachusetts.

**12. Adjournment: 4:18 p.m.**