

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2015

3:30 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1st Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

Meeting Being Taped

Agenda:

- 1. Meeting Called to Order 3:40 p.m.**
- 2. Approval of April 21, 2015 Minutes:** Linda Ackerman makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Barbara Kuklweicz.
- 3. Skate Park Project Update**
Berkshire Design Group will be finishing up construction documents and specs this week. The project will go to bid once the documents are completed. Jon feels we are still on target for a late summer ground breaking.
- 4. Sway Fun Glider Project Update**
On May 3, the glider's base and ramp will be built, followed by the installation of the glider on May 16. We have a volunteer that is a contractor experienced with concrete working to get this ramp up to ADA standards. The building inspector will also be working with us on ADA compliance.
- 5. Montague Center Play Structure Update**
The play structure's equipment representative met with Jon this past Tuesday. He felt the structure was in great shape with the exception of some 6 x 6's that would need replacing. He had recommendations on how to move forward with disassembly and rebuilding the structure. The Mohawk Ramblers will be volunteering their time with disassembly.
- 6. Winter Programs Profit/Loss Statements**
The Sawmill Run statement was not in the packet the commission received, so Jon passed this out to them. The Sawmill Run expenses increased this year; the cost of the hall went up and replenishing paper products were necessary. Linda did question the GSB charge. Jen will follow up on this charge. Next season, the Blue Fish will be absorbing the pool expenses as it will no longer be a budget expense but rather a revolving fund expense. We could increase fees as well as set a higher fundraising goal to off set this expense. The Blue Fish head coach stepped down mid-season and Liz Tyler and Peg Saulnier were able to finish the season. We will begin looking for a new head coach for next season, which will be a challenge as we are not an aquatically rich area. There were 56 swimmers this season. Basketball took a hit financially this year as there were only 3 travel teams, compared to 5 the previous winter. Jon feels that the fee is comparable to other towns and does not want to increase fees. He would rather come up with a fundraising idea to offset some of the expenses. The Babysitting Course only had 3 participants this winter. Linda wondered if the course should only run one time a year instead of twice. Jon will re-examine this issue after the June course. Open Swim numbers continue to go down. The water temperature may be too cold. Jon has tried to communicate with the school in regard to this but has been unsuccessful. Jon recommends that if we are able to increase water temperature, then we should also increase fees. The Open Swim fees have not been increased since Jon has become Director.

- 7. FY16 Budget - Annual Town Meeting**
Annual Town Meeting will be May 2. Jon is expecting to address why our budget has increased significantly. He questioned if he should have a hand out with a break down of our budget or just prepare to speak on the increase. The Commission felt the later would be enough information.
- 8. Unity Park Fieldhouse Restrooms**
The Commission inspected the restrooms and were satisfied with the results.
- 9. Directors Report**
There were no questions.
- 11. Other Business**
Angel Fire would like to rent the space to practice again this summer. There were no issues with her last year, so Jon agreed to her return.
- 12. Adjournment: 4:32 p.m.**