

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2015

4 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1st Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Linda Ackerman, Vice Chairperson (4:05), Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, Barbara Kuklewicz, Secretary

Meeting Being Taped

Agenda:

1. Meeting Called to Order 4:02 p.m.

2. Approval of November 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion of accepting the minutes, seconded by Dennis Grader.

3. Skate Park Project Update

The project is wrapping up; the landscape architect, Eddie, the project Forman, and Jon all met to discuss the final pouring which will happen this week. The crew will be going home on December 22 for the holidays and Eddie and one other crew member will return in January to finish and clean up. It looks like we could have a "soft opening" of the skate park around the second week of January. Jon is happy with the way the park is looking and we are about halfway through (\$205,000) our budget. Grindline, Berkshire Design and Allied Testing Laboratories (the company testing our concrete) have been billing us as the project moves along. There were questions regarding payment schedules, but other wise project is moving along smoothly.

4. Fiscal Year 2017 Departmental Budget Proposal

Jon provided the commission with the proposed budget. The narrative discusses current projects and past FY 15' projects. Also in the narrative were the Strategic Plan, and the method of which we take to develop the plan. We would be making a proposal similar to last year, relative to part-time wages for temporary employees and compensating for increase in minimum wage (\$9/hour to \$10/hour in FY 16.) That would be the only item in the Operating Budget with an increase. Jon went on to speak about the department's 5 year improvement plans as being: Norma's/Rutter Park, the conversion of the garage area into programming space, fieldhouse improvements relative to sustainability and energy efficiency, exterior improvements of the fieldhouse, and improvement to Montague Center Park and Highland Park. Jon and Michael Nelson spoke about the possibility of the DPW setting aside some money for the painting of the exterior of the fieldhouse sometime this spring/summer by the House of Corrections. The Capital Improvements Committee also asked for a future needs schedule of improvements. Jon went on to say that improvement items listed above will be covered by a combination of grants, revolving account and capital improvement funds. The garage door was briefly discussed in regard to replacing in the future. There was a question about the cost of phone and internet, and Jon told the commission the town determines this cost. The proposal is due December 28; Jon plans on submitting in the next few days. There were no further questions.

5. Director's Report

There were no questions.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment: 4:30 p.m.