

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**February 25, 2015**

**3:30 p.m.**

**Unity Park Field House**

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

**Turners Falls, MA 01376**

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

**Missing:** Dennis Grader

**Meeting Being Taped**

**Agenda:**

**1. Meeting Called to Order: 3:38 p.m.**

**2. Approval of January 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion of accepting the minutes; seconded by Linda Ackerman.

**3. Skate Park Project Update**

The Skate Park has been open for approximately one month now and it has become a very popular place. Carlos Neito from Berkshire Design was here today to look at the cracks. He was interested seeing if they had grown or widened; Jon marked them last month to monitor. At this point, there's no indication they have grown or widened. The cracks in the bowl have not been marked yet, as it is difficult to get in and out of the bowl on foot. Carlos says cracks are to be expected and are specified to be a certain size if they do exist. He hoped to return later in the day when things had a chance to dry so that he can go into the bowl and take pictures. His main concerns are the tile coping and the border in the bowl area. The tile coping has been chipped considerably and some of the mortar is coming loose. Jon and Carlos discussed different options regarding the coping like switching to metal piping. Grindline has been informed of these issues and will continue to be informed. They also had no problem going from their typical one year warranty to a two year warranty on their work. Linda asked if there is a way to know how/who caused the chipping. Jon, Carlos, and a few Skate park users think it's a combination of everyone; BMX bikers, scooters and skateboarders. Jon stated that Ron Kelly, owner of Eagle Automotive claimed he was outside the shop and noticed a skateboard coming out of the bowl and witnessing the coping crumbling when the trucks underneath the skateboard came into contact with the material. Carlos will be talking to the designer of the park about these issues. The Commission wondered why this is occurring only after one month as this is standard issue with any skate park. It was suggested that we look into if other skate parks to find out if they have experienced this kind problem. Also discussed were the large amounts of trash being left around. We currently have one trash can, and will be putting one or two more near the skatepark. Members of the Skate Park Committee, Carlos, and Ron Kelly will all be invited to our March meeting to discuss how things have been going with the park. Also at this meeting, Jon anticipates confirming the Grand Opening day as May 21. There were no further questions.

**4. 2016 Summer Playground Fees**

Jon would like to table this item until March's meeting to further research the Federal and State minimum wage requirements.

**Motion:** Barb Kuklewicz makes the motion to table this item until our March meeting; seconded by Linda Ackerman.

**Vote: 2-0**

**5. Whale Spray Feature - Summer 2015 Water Usage & Cost**

The touch activation option was set and seemed to have worked out well, as we used less water this past summer.

**6. Lake Pleasant Park Project Update**

Jon received a project schedule for the Rutter's and Norma's Park project. Bruce Hunter will be the project manager. On March 10 there will be a site briefing for designers to be held at the Spiritual Alliance Center. A project committee is being formed. When Jon asked the Commission members if they would be interest in being a member, Barbara said she would like to be a part of this committee.

**7. Departmental Webpage**

Jon would really like our web page to be more interesting and dynamic. He made an initial phone call to Mik Muller from Montague Web Works. It was at this time the he was informed by the Town Hall that Virtual Town Hall, company that the town uses for all of its webpages, can be used to create a more exciting webpage. Both Jon and Jen have taken some on line tutorials through Virtual Town Hall to work on the webpage. If down the road this route does not provide the desired results we could then contact Montague Web Works.

**8. Directors Report**

There were no questions.

**9. Other Business**

Jon was asked by Hillcrest School to help them with a playground project, the Commission approves.

Reminder that the state conference will be held March 21 – 23 and Jon will be out of the office those days.

**10. Adjournment: 4:10 p.m.**