

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2018

3:30 pm

Unity Park Fieldhouse

56 First Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

Absent: Dennis Grader, Chairperson

Meeting Being Taped

1. 3:35pm Meeting Called to Order

2. 3:36pm Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2018; (Votes May Be Taken)

Motion: Made by Albert Cummings to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

Approved: 2-0

3. 3:37pm Rutter's Park Improvement Project – Design Phase Update

In the Commission's packet was a letter written by GZA Geoenvironmental, designers of the Rutter's Park Improvement Project, which included a cost estimate of Phase 1 of this project. Jon emailed the commission the bid ready plan of the project, as the sizes of the document was too large. Barbara Kuklewicz did question one of the dates listed on the letter as 2013; Jon will contact Bruce Hunter in regard to this date. There were no further questions.

4. 3:40pm 2018 Spring Programs – Brochure

The EGGstravaganza will be held at Unity Park on Saturday, March 31 at 1:00pm, with a snow postponement date of Saturday, April 14 at 1:00pm. One new event that we are adding to our schedule is the Warrior Dash Adventure Course Race, which we are partnering with Friends of Hillcrest and administration of Hillcrest. The Tee Ball, Nipper, senior and Adult Co-Ed Softball will all be back for the spring. We are hoping our Rookie Baseball happens this year as it didn't last spring due to low registrations. Unity Park Community Garden has events this spring beginning with their garden clean up April 14.

5. 3:44pm Spring Project Plan

Rutter's Park: The application for construction, which we plan to hear back this summer.

Montague Center Park: The Master Plan survey completion, followed by a meeting with the committee to discuss the findings of the survey. We will also promote and gather support for the master plan article at Annual Town Meeting, for the funding of the master plan.

Unity Park: The new mural needs to be sealed. The Skatepark needs a concrete pad and bench installed, as well as planting on the main façade. This particular area of the skatepark receives a lot of skate board/foot traffic, so what ever we decide will have to withstand such traffic. The playground walkways, which was a 2018 Capital Project, has been unable to attract a vendor. It needs to be painted every 5 years and cracks repaired as general maintenance. Jon feels that our location is the reason vendors are not interested in the project; we are just too far away from many of the companies. The wood guard-rail by our exit was damaged during plowing and needs repairing. The Unity 1 and Unity 2 pitchers mounds need work; Jon thinks introducing red clay would be more user and maintenance friendly. The material we are currently using is very sandy and not an ideal surface to play on. We would start with the mounds with red clay, and if works well, then move on to the infield. The playground needs wood chips; this is another scheduled maintenance job. The fieldhouse roof is a long term maintenance item. It was discovered that the roofing tiles are not going to last even half of their sch-

eduled life. We contacted the contractor that did the work, but they are unable to find the proof of purchase or receipts we need to make a claim with the roof tile company. Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent, who is in charge of buildings, will take over with this project. Lastly, we will possible have to replace our volleyball net; as it is 5 years old. Jon feels these small ticket items will not put a strain on our budget; and the higher priced items have been placed in our 2018 capital improvement budget.

6. 3:50pm Summer Camp – Set Fee Schedule

Jon recommends that we keep the summer camp fees where they were last summer. He does anticipate that the state legislature will vote an increase in minimum wage next year, which will impact how much we pay our staff, and therefore our camp fees.

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes a motion to keep current summer camp fees; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Approved: 2-0

7. 3:55pm New Fieldhouse Mural Project

Elyssa Serelli approached Jon in regard to completing the mural around the building. She came up with the concept of “Building Bridges” working with indigenous artist, elders, and local students. Jon supports the idea. He would like to see a link between what the leisurely pursuits the indigenous people had and what people in this area are doing now, specifically the skatepark, as this wall faces the skatepark. The concept of Building Bridges from the past to now comes at a good time in our community, due to the fact of the mascot issue was so divisive. Jon will absolutely support a mural that will appropriately represent this concept.

8. 3:57pm Parks & Recreation Director Business

●ADA/Town of Montague Transition Plan – Department Self-Audit

The Town of Montague is updating its Transitional Plan and the ADA requirements are part of this plan.

It will require programs, facilities, and services to be accessible for those individuals with physical or mental disabilities. Our department is currently in the process of doing a self-audit relative to programs and services. The Franklin County Regional Council of Governments is walking us through this process. They will be going to all the parks throughout the town with their own audit. Jon spoke about our parks and feels Unity is in good shape as far accessibility, and we are working towards something for Rutter’s Park and Montague Center. Norma’s Park is extremely challenging, and if the Council comes up with recommendations, Jon would be very interested in hearing what they come up with. Highland Park looks like there maybe a few quick fixes to make it more accessible.

●2018 Playful City USA

KABOOM is not putting together a Playful Cities application this year, so any city that was one last year will continue with that status. Jon was not given any reason why they are not doing the designation application process.

●Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference Championship Race, April 22, 2018

This race was held at Unity Park two years ago and the event went smoothly. Jon will be attending the Board of Selectmen meeting tonight and this event is on the agenda. It’s a very easy event for the department to support; requiring the fieldhouse is open for the bathrooms. Jon stated that we will get the word out to the public that there will be no access to the parking lot but the park will be open. They expect 255 racers and officials.

●MA Recreation & Parks Association State Conference, March 5-7

Jon will be attending the conference, so he will not be in the office. Jennifer will be in the office 9:30 a.m. – 1:30pm.

●Monthly Meeting/Event Log

There were not questions.

9. 4:04pm Other Business

There is an information session in regards to the Turners Falls Cultural District; it's an opportunity for people to share ideas. It will be held Monday, March 5 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm at the Montague Senior Center. Jon will be at the conference so he will not be able to attend but he let the commission know that they could attend the session.

10. 4:05pm Adjournment

Motion: Made by Barbara Kuklewicz to adjourn, seconded by Albert Cummings.
Approved: 2-0

X _____

Albert Cummings, Secretary Date

or

Signature

Name & Title: _____

Print

Date: _____

