

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, May 24, 2018

3:30 pm

Unity Park Fieldhouse

56 First Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

Meeting Being Taped

1. 3:30pm Meeting Called to Order

2. 3:31pm Voting of Parks & Recreation Commission Member Positions

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion to keep the commission member positions as is; seconded by Al Cummings.

Chairperson: Dennis Grader, Vice Chairperson: Barbara Kuklewicz, Secretary: Albert Cummings

Approved: 3-0

3. 3:34pm Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2018

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

Approved: 3-0

4. 3:35pm Montague Center Park Improvement Project Update

At the Annual Town Meeting Article 23 – Montague Center Park Master Plan for \$7000 was approved. Jon has contacted Conway School of Design and they have noted the funding on our application. Tomorrow the school is holding a presentation of projects the students have completed this year and Jon has been invited to attend. He was unsure if will be able to attend because our cookie dough fundraiser delivery is expected. Barbara did offer to help with the delivery so that it would free up Jon to attend some of these presentations.

5. 3:40pm FY 2019 Departmental Budget Update

Our FY 2019 budget was approved at the Annual Town Meeting for \$130,980. There were no further questions.

6. 3:41pm Spring Programs Update

Tee Ball, Girls Softball, and Adult Softball all seem to be going well. Tee Ball has 48 participants. Our Nippers (ages 7-9 years) has a full team of 12 this year and we're hoping this continues as the numbers had been declining. The Diamond Dusters also has a roster of 12. The Adult Softball League has 9 teams. Jon discussed the Warrior Dash, an adventure course which is something new for us that is planned for June 9. We're partnering with Friends of Hillcrest and proceeds will go to our scholarship program and Hillcrest playground fund. Registration for this is a little slow, but Jon is not surprised as it is a new program. He's hoping as the date gets closer parents will start registering their children.

7. 3:47pm Summer Programs 2018

The summer edition of Fun Times was in the commission's packet. We have a full summer of activities. Registration for Summer Camp has begun and the 5-8 year old group has been filling up, our older groups registration are slow, but as the end of school gets closer registrations pick up. Other summer programs are Youth Sports Development Camp, basketball training camp, youth soccer camp, skateboard lessons, and Saturday pick up soccer for adults. We will be having our Night Skates again, with the first one being June 21 and the second July 28.

8. 3:53pm

FY 2019 Departmental Master Plan Draft

Jon has begun to update the plan but asked the commission what their thoughts for FY 2019 were. Typically he goes through the FY 2018 plan, and what wasn't completed then, he'll move to FY 2019. Our plan to paint and reseal the walkways in the park for FY 2018 did not happen as we never received a quote from a contractor. Another area listed was the garage conversion to programming space; it's been difficult because the space is currently being used for much needed storage. Along with painting this area, we need a second egress, so taking the needed time for the project has just not happened. Jon asked the commission if they wanted to leave this project on the master plan or to remove it, and they felt strongly that it should remain on the plan. Highland Park project will remain, but placed on the FY 2020 plan.

9. 4:00pm

"No Animals in the Playground" Policy

This issue presented itself to our department when pictures of chickens on the playground swings were in The Recorder. We currently have a posted no animal policy, but there is also an issue of service animals that does need to be acknowledged. These particular chickens were in bucket swings and on other playground equipment. This does not need to be voted on today. The commission can go through the information that was given in the packet from the Board of Health and Look Park. We already have a policy on our park rules sign that states no live stock. This may be an issue that will need to be addressed in the future.

10. 4:10pm

Parks & Recreation Director Business

- **Monthly Meeting Event Log:** there were no questions
- **Franklin County Cider Days Salon:** This event will be returning to Unity Park November 3, 2018.
- **Unity Community Garden:** Two, 250 gallon water tanks are being donated to the Community Garden. The current group running this garden is very active and doing a great job.

11. 4:12pm

Other Business

The new mural for the Fieldhouse is in the brainstorming phase right now. The theme will focus around local Native American history and will tie in with what is going on now, recreationally and culturally.

It was recommended that Jon's annual evaluation be performed. The documents will be put in June's commission meeting packet.

12. 4:14pm

Adjournment

Motion: Made by Barbara Kuklewicz; seconded by Albert Cummings.
Approved: 3-0

X _____

Albert Cummings, Secretary Date

or

Signature

Name & Title: _____

Print

Date: _____