

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 18, 2018

3:30 pm

Unity Park Fieldhouse

56 First Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Barbara Kuklewicz, Vice Chairperson, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation

Absent: Albert Cummings, Jennifer Peterson

Meeting Being Taped

1. 3:35pm Meeting Called to Order

2. 3:35pm Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2018

Motion: Made by Barbara Kuklewicz to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Dennis Grader.

Approved: 2-0

3. 3:36pm Montague Center Park Improvement Project Update

Jon attended the Conway School of Design 2017 spring project presentations. He was able to see two presentations. He was glad he attended and was impressed with the students work. We should hear back from the school late August - early September to find out if our application was accepted.

4. 3:37pm Summer 2018 Programs Update

- **Warrior Dash Obstacle Course Race** was held Saturday, June 9 and approximately 125 children participated. It was a great turn out. It was a successful partnership with Hillcrest Playground Project Committee, and with Julie Notlet, chairperson, Sarah Bernstein, principal of Hillcrest Elementary. At the wrap up meeting today, the group was pleased and suggestions were made for next year. This was a fundraiser for the Playground Project as well as our Sponsor-a-Child Scholarship Program; with each making a profit of approximately \$300. The insurance cost was more than expected, but as we move forward with this we will make fee adjustments as well consider various co-sponsorship ideas. Coordination was key with this event; many people, like physical education teacher Ron Wood, the DPW, various farms for hay, and the many volunteers all worked together to make this event successful.
- **Summer Camp** registration is going well for our 5 – 8 year old group; all but one of our seven weeks are full. The two 9 – 12 year old groups are slower, we may have to eliminate one site and consolidate sites to just Unity Park. This particular 9-12 group is an older group and is starting to age out of the program. This might be the beginning of a downward trend and we may have to modify the program framework of this age group in the future.
- **Sports Development Camp/Soccer Camps** registrations have been slow.
- **Night Skate** will be June 21, and our first official summer event. We are currently working on entertainment.

5. 3:46pm FY 2019 Developmental Strategic Plan

A draft of the Strategic Plan was provided to the Commission. There will be revisions to the Areas of Service/Parks and Facilities as it relates to the Transition Plan, which is the town's ADA Accessibility Plan. It will have to be noted in our Strategic Plan how the accessibility plan applies to all parks and facilities. The last time the Transition Plan was done was 2001. The town has made progress in ADA accessibility, but there are areas that still need work and our parks are included in these areas. Unity Park doesn't have any big ticket items pertaining to accessibility but when it comes to our other parks the price tag

will increase; Lake Pleasant and Montague Center are under plans for improvement. We will continue to move forward on trying to find a solution as to how to convert the garage space into program space. The Strategic Plan will have a note in regard to the Montague Center Improvement Plan.

Motion: Made by Barbara Kuklewicz to accept the Strategic Plans after revisions; seconded by Dennis Grader.

Approved: 2-0

6. 3:50pm Director Evaluation, Policies & Procedures

New meeting laws have changed how we evaluate the Director. Procedure requires the evaluation forms be handed to the commission and the completed evaluations are then discussed individually at the next meeting; therefore no performance evaluations will be privately discussed. The Commission can take the evaluations and individually complete them over the summer.

7. 3:53pm Recreation Summer Commission Summer Schedule

The Commission discussed the idea of not meeting this summer. Jon does not anticipate needing a July meeting.

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion to not meet in July unless needed; seconded by Dennis Grader.

Approved: 2-0

8. 3:55pm Parks & Recreation Director Business

- **Warrior Dash Obstacle Course Race** was discussed above.
- **Unity Park Playground Safety Railing** was an issue that has been a concern ever since the Unity Park project was completed six years ago. The walkway that leads to the bike path crosses the street, and we continue to hear that children and toddlers are running through the opening into the street. A few weeks ago it was observed by one of our highways workers that a toddler ran into the street. Jon took it upon himself to do something to fix this issue immediately. He purchased bright yellow, steal railings to be installed in such a way to discourage children from going into the road but also honors ADA regulations. An illustration was shown to the commission. Reflective tape will also be placed on these railings. Jon did discuss the solution with Steven Ellis (Town Administrator), and Tom Bergeron (Highway Superintendent). The railings will be bolted into the walkway. The cost of this project was approximately \$1,200.
- **Director's Vacation** Jon will be on vacation during the week of August 20 – 24.

9. 4:05pm Other Business

No questions.

10. 4:05: pm Adjournment

Motion: Made by Barbara Kuklewicz, seconded by Dennis Grader.

Approved: 2-0

X _____

Albert Cummings, Secretary Date

or

Signature

Name & Title: _____

Print

Date: _____