

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

3:30 pm

Unity Park Field House

56 1<sup>st</sup> Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

### **Meeting Being Taped**

### **Agenda:**

- 1. Meeting Called to Order:** 3:35 pm
- 2. Approval of June 18, 2013 Minutes:** Linda Ackerman makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Barbara Kuklweicz.
- 3. Unity Park Improvement Project Update: Phase 1 & 2**

Jon discussed the last few items that needed to be completed in this phase were the signs for the rain and butterfly garden and for growth of the grass on the ball fields. He is hoping the fields will open for the spring of 2014. Taylor Davis, the contractor, will be coming back in the next few weeks to do some final over seeding. He went on to say that the basketball court, the walking path, and fitness stations are open. Phase 2 seemed to have gone smoothly and was happy with the results. Linda Ackerman brought up her concerns that may be going on in the fields. Jon let the commission know that there was some puddling, but a drain will be placed in that area. The contractor did do some leveling of the field and as the grass continues to grow that may also help. There is a one year warranty on the field. As far as Phase 1, there are some items within the warranty that will need replacement; some shrubbery, and reseeded in the no mow areas. The trees in the parking lot are also being watched. The majority of the water feature has been repainted. There will also be some repair work on the asphalt walk way that will be taken care of in the next few weeks. This seems to be the last of Phase 1 work.

A new groundskeeper position was voted in at the Special Town Meeting. The position will be through the DPW. This position will help maintain the woodchips, clean the surface of the rain garden, trimming, and taking care of the ball fields.

Jon spoke about additional CDBG funding remaining and the department has the opportunity to add more items to the park. One proposal was to add an additional rock structure to the playground. The second proposal would be to add back the sand volleyball court to the park. The hearing is Monday, September 23 with the BOS. The BOS has to approve how the money is spent. Linda Ackerman asked how much money was available because she was wondering if soccer goals could be purchased to benefit another aspect of our population. Jon didn't think this item could be part of the CDBG funding because the goals would be portable. He thought that if the commission agreed, this item could be purchased through our revolving fund.

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman made a motion to endorse the purchase of another climbing structure for the rock climbing area of the playground, as well as the construction of a sand volleyball court. Barb Kuklweicz seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0**

**4. Lake Pleasant Park Improvement Update**

Jon is trying to coordinate a meeting with the Lake Pleasant Village Association but has been unable to do so at this time. He is hoping to be able to attend their October meeting. He is trying to put together a survey as part of a broader needs assessment. He has replaced all the swings at Rutters Park and has ordered a bucket swing. The cost of the swing was \$95. He felt it is important to continue moving forward on this item. Jon said that he will let the commission know when this group meets again so commission members could also attend.

**5. Pay & Classification Study**

This was approved at town meeting, but the unions have still not determined what they want. The last time Jon had heard the union had not made any recommendations relative to any clerk positions. As of right now, he did not think the increase to the clerk position will happen. He did not know if the title change for the job description will be approved either. The modifications to the director's position have been approved. Jon did say that he has a call out to the union representative to see what is going on with the job descriptions and title.

**6. Spring Programs 2013 Profit/Loss Statements**

The cookie dough fundraiser that the girl's softball, rookie teams and tee ball had this spring was very successful. Next year Jon said that he will need to purchase tees for the tee ball program. There was a suggestion that Hillside Pizza and Applebee's could possibly be used for future fundraising. Jon let the commission know that at the end of this summer, there was \$4500 more in revolving than last summer. He felt both the fundraising and the strong numbers the summer playground had this summer contributes to this balance. Our next commission meeting we will discuss the summer playground further.

**7. Skatepark Update**

Jon talked about the late August BOS meeting where a contingent of people supported the original design of the project, which at this point is around \$250,000. He had a meeting with Walter Ramsey, town planner, and Brian Dolan, member of the skatepark committee earlier this spring. There seems to be a feeling of dissatisfaction with some people about the size and amenities proposed. Jon feels we should still work towards the PARC grant, but there has to be more dialogue and "mending of fences" relative to this situation. The town's insurance company was given the design and they felt a fence might not be necessary. He would like to meet with the town planner and members of the skatepark committee for further discussion.

**8. Montague Center Play Structure**

Tabled to October meeting

**Vote: 3-0**

**9. Memorial Bench Request**

Betty McCabe contacted the department to place a memorial bench at the park in honor of her late husband, Dick Shepherd. The family will purchase the bench and costs associated with the purchase. Jon has been researching benches and feels the design should be in line with what is already at the park. The bench that Jon is proposing is wood and runs around \$290, not including installation. A dedication plaque will also be on the bench.

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman made a motion to present Betty with the proposed bench and all cost of the bench to be taken care of by the family. This bench to be placed in a location agreed upon by Jon.

**Vote: 3-0**

**10. Portable Soccer Goals for Unity Park**

Linda Ackerman was contacted by Teresa from NELCWIT to do something for the Latino families in town. Many of the men play soccer after work, and she thought that having portable goals would be useful. Linda let Teresa know that she would talk to the commission. Jon stated that if we were to purchase equipment not being used by our department, the money would have to come from our revolving account. Jon showed the commission some goals. They run around \$200.00 each. Linda felt this would be money well spent. The commission discussed where these goals would be stored. They should not be left out. It was also discussed possibly putting someone in charge of these goals; getting them on and off the field.

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman made a proposal to purchase two portable soccer goals for the benefit of the community, with security devices to be installed and plan developed to manage these goals. Barbara Kuklweicz seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0**

**11. Directors Report**

There were no questions on the report.

**12. Other Business**

Jon let the commission know that he has the Open Meeting Law forms that need to be signed and the Conflict of Interest can be done on line.

**13. Adjournment: 4:35pm**