

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 26, 2014

3:30 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1st Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Linda Ackerman, Vice Chairperson, Barbara Kuklweicz, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, Jennifer Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper (3:45 pm)

Meeting Being Taped

Agenda:

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** 3:30 p.m.
2. **Approval of February 25, 2014 Minutes:** Linda Ackerman makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Barbara Kuklweicz.
Vote: 3-0
3. **Massachusetts Recreation & Parks Association Facility Award**
Jon showed the award for excellence in the field of “Design of Facility” to the commission from the Massachusetts Recreation and Parks Association that was awarded at last month’s annual state conference.
4. **Unity Park Improvement Project Update**
There was a pre-construction meeting held earlier today that Jon, Bruce Hunter, Carlos Nieto from Berkshire Design Group, and people from Taylor Davis Company all attended. Phase 2.2 will include the instillation of the sand volleyball court and the new rock playground structure. There is no time line in place right now, but Jon is confident that in the next week or so one will be in place. He also didn’t feel that either the volleyball court or the rock structure would take more than a few days.

Taylor Davis did check the drain that was installed in the fall because of the puddling. There has been some wash out this winter so they do plan on working on that this spring. There is a one year warranty on the field.
5. **Spring Programs**
The Eggstravaganza will be held on the back fields of Sheffield Elementary School. Tee ball, Rookie Baseball and Rookie Softball will all be held at the Hillcrest fields. The fields at Unity Park will not be ready until the end of summer/early fall. The Senior League Softball has changed slightly this year. The Small Town’s League is no longer, and we have joined the Greenfield Girl’s Softball League. At this point, the games will be held in Greenfield, but possibly could have some games at Highland Park. The league is American Softball Association certified, which means that they have to have ASA certified umpires. The league supplies the umpires. Jon feels that this is the best long term solution. Spring tennis lessons as well as the American Red Cross Babysitting Course will also be offered.
6. **Playful City USA Application**
The application was submitted last Thursday. There were issues with the video; it was submitted late but the application was accepted. MCTV helped with the making of the video. It’s posted on You Tube and Vimio. Jon would like to add to the video with our other programs as well as community events; like the Spring Parade. He feels it’s important to show the entire town is “Playful” not just the parks and recreation department. We will find out in May if we will become a Playful City.
7. **Potential Summer Intern**
Jon was approached by Jarrod Allis who is interested in doing an internship this summer. He is a Montague Center resident studying sports management at Western New England University. There is no contract to the

university as this is a self-directed internship. He could be involved with the summer playground program, and some evening programs at the park. It would be good for him to work with our groundskeeper so that he experiences not only the programming side, but the facilities management as well. Jon felt it would be a nice gesture to provide a weekly stipend. He thought that \$100 would be appropriate as he will be leading activities and working on grounds. It would be handled similar to how we process the CAP's weekly stipend. Details of his start and end date as well as daily hours have not yet been determined as Jon wanted the commission's vote before going any further.

Motion: Barbara Kuklweicz makes a motion to proceed with the summer internship with all the proper documentation required. Also keep the commission informed of the details of his internship. Linda Ackerman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0

8. Letter of Recommendations

Betty Tegal stopped by the office and spoke with Jennifer about her thoughts on the park/department. Jon has drawn up a letter to Ms. Tegal as a response to her recommendations. He read the letter to the commission. The commission made some changes in the wording of a few sentences but otherwise agreed to send the letter.

9. Other Business

The Finance Committee will be going over budgets this evening at 6:00 p.m. Jon will be attending the meeting. He has not heard from the committee so assumes there are no issues with our budget for FY 15'. Linda Ackerman asked if the Angyl Fyre were using the park again this year. They will be using the park again, and the fire chief gave them permission as well. The group has not contacted us for a start time yet. Jon said that he will reconnect with them for this information.

10. Adjournment 4:20 p.m.